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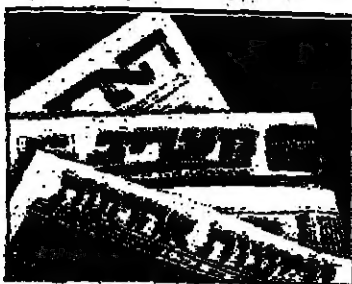
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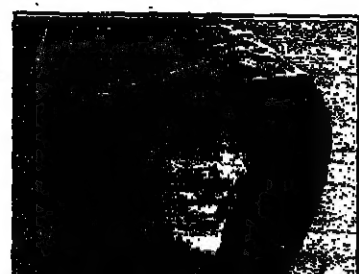
VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19796

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1997 • KISLEV 10, 5758 • 9 SHAABAN 1418

NIS 4.50 (EILAT NIS 3.85)



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Barak: I'm no dictator

By LIAT COLLINS

Following the Labor faction executive meeting in the Knesset yesterday, which was so emotional that MK Yael Dayan described it as "group psychotherapy," party leader Ehud Barak publicly rejected claims by some Labor MKs that he is acting like a dictator and refuses to consult with them.

Although he said the MKs have no reason to be concerned, he did not state that a steering committee would be established as many of the MKs are demanding, saying only that "The matter will be considered."

He said he was not surprised, or concerned, by the force of the party reactions.

"There is no room for any real fears of a dictatorship or of one man taking control of the Labor Party. Labor is a party with a long and broad tradition of democracy and with well-established institutions and apparatus which sometimes even slow down the decision-making process but definitely don't shorten them when it comes to democratic procedures," he said.

He noted that at present he is acting as party secretary-general and temporarily holds other party functions.

"As a result it is impossible to meet as some of the members would probably like. I have 1 no doubt that these matters will be settled. I have no problem with them. In a democratic party, criticism is not a problem."

He left no doubt about what he sees as Labor's goal.

"Our true goal is to replace Netanyahu's government," he said. "Our main task is not just to internally reorganize the party but to go out to the public. I was elected to lead the party in the public arena and towards electoral victory."

Barak said his new priorities include promoting free education, the status of women, immigrant absorption and civilian or military national service for all.

The Labor faction meeting yesterday focused on the crisis in the health system.

Outside the faction room, Hagai Merom, who along with Uri Baran, seems to be spearheading the campaign against Barak, told reporters: "There are those in the party who feel it is being neglected." Merom has been upset with Barak since he failed to be appointed secretary-general.

Ophir Pines said he is "very dissatisfied with what's going on in the party and with some of the things Barak himself is doing."

See BARAK, Page 5



Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, flanked by his wife, Kochava, and an unidentified Turkish officer, leaves the mausoleum of modern Turkey's founder Kemal Ataturk in Ankara yesterday, after a wreath-laying ceremony. (AP)

Defense ties with Turkey bolstered

By ARNOLD O'NEILL

ANKARA — Israeli and Turkish defense ties have been strengthened, as Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's visit here paved the way for lucrative weapons contracts and won a commitment to deeply enhance the strategic alliance between the two countries.

Faced with a similar missile threat as Israel, Turkey is interested in acquiring the Homa anti-ballistic missile defense system, including the Arrow missile, Turkish and Israeli defense sources said.

"We are surrounded by regimes with various problems. Israel and Turkey are two islands of stability which must be preserved together," Turkish Chief of General Staff Gen. Ismail Karadayi told Mordechai.

"There are lots of issues where we can cooperate. We are fully satisfied with the military and defense industry cooperation between us. There will always be nations against our cooperation, but we are interested in deepening and strengthening it," he said.

Mordechai, the first Israeli defense minister to visit Turkey, replied to Karadayi that Israel was willing to share with it advanced weapons technology to combat the joint threats.

"When we lock hands, we form a

powerful fist," Mordechai said.

Ankara was shrouded in a chilly drizzle yesterday, but Mordechai found warmth among Turkey's top leaders. After laying a wreath at the tomb of modern Turkey's founder, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, Mordechai met with Defense Minister Ismet Sezgin. He later traveled to the parliament for a meeting with Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz.

The visit takes place in the shadow

of the Islamic conference in Tehran, which is expected to condemn the Turkish-Israeli relationship.

In Washington, meanwhile, the State Department welcomed Turkish-Israeli statements on military cooperation, saying they demonstrate Israel's continued integration in the Middle East.

"We think that Israel's integration into the region is part and parcel of what we think needs to happen in order for there to be an overall settlement of the Middle East problem. So that's something that obviously we've been encouraging

for quite some time now and we have welcomed in particular the cooperation that's developed between Turkey and Israel," State Department spokesman James Foley told reporters yesterday.

Foley would not comment on the declaration expected to be issued in Tehran denouncing the cooperation.

Mordechai repeatedly stressed throughout the day that the defense cooperation between Israel and Turkey was not directed at any third party. Sezgin echoed this.

"I am very happy with the development of the relations between the two countries," Sezgin said. "And I especially want to note that the military cooperation, the joint maneuvers and defense industry cooperation are not directed at anyone."

Mordechai said that the current upgrade by Israel of 54 Turkish Air Force F-4 jets was on schedule, noting that the cash-flow problems at Israel Aircraft Industries had been solved. Israel is the leading contender to upgrade 48 F-5 jets in a deal worth about \$100 million.

Mordechai also is offering to upgrade Turkey's aging M-60 battle tanks, and sell Turkey UAVs, anti-tank missiles, the air-to-ground Popeye missile and the Gali assault rifle.

Turkey faces a growing missile

threat not only from Iran and Syria, but also from Greek Cyprus, which is planning to buy S-300 anti-aircraft missiles, which Turkish officials claim can be converted to ground-to-ground missiles.

Turkish defense officials said they were keen on the Arrow missile and that it was agreed in principle to jointly produce it. Israeli defense officials confirmed this, but stressed negotiations were not yet at an operable stage and that Washington needed to approve any deals since the US provides the lion's share of the Arrow's development costs.

Mordechai dismissed fears that advanced Israeli weapons technology could find itself in hostile hands, saying that top-of-the-line weapons could be bought elsewhere, and if Israel sold the weapons it could have better control over them.

The Turkish-Israeli strategic talks, which take place every six months, are to be held late December in Ankara.

Israel, Turkey and the US are slated to conduct joint naval maneuvers in January. According to the *Turkish Daily News*, the five-day rescue exercise, dubbed "Reliant Mermaid," will begin on January 5.

Hillel Kautler contributed to this report.

Islamic summit opens today

Biggest int'l gathering in Iran since revolution

By DAVID RUDGE and news agencies

The three-day summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference that begins today brings together delegates from more than 50 nations of Africa, Europe, Asia and the Arab world.

This summit is the biggest international gathering in Tehran since the 1979 revolution.

Iran's hosting of the summit is part of an attempt to improve ties with neighboring countries and to undermine the US-led Gulf War coalition, according to senior Haifa University lecturer Dr. Yair Hirschfeld.

"It is also an attempt to put an end to America's dual containment policy vis-a-vis Iraq and Iran," said Hirschfeld, a leading expert on superpower involvement in the Middle East.

Hirschfeld said he was less concerned with the resolutions that may be passed at the summit, and more with the general tone of the three-day event.

Tehran's diplomatic comeback, Page 6

"The Gulf coalition, with Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and the Arab Gulf States, was reinforced by the Oslo Accords and the peace process in general," he said.

"The peace process had a major stabilizing effect which is now falling apart, and the long-standing Syrian-Iranian cooperation is creating a very dangerous double game, in which they can both play either the pragmatic or radical roles."

Hirschfeld, one of the architects of the Oslo Accords, noted that Iran had been neutralized by the Gulf War coalition, and had remained isolated because of its radical, fundamentalist stance.

"The danger now, as I see it, is that Iran is seeking legitimacy and is opening up its doors to its neighbors and even to the US, while our government is leading us with enormous speed into

splendid isolation, and that's no joke," he said.

"This is likely to create new dynamics in the region that could, for a variety of reasons, lead to greater radicalism even closer to us, which would be very dangerous."

"An opening of doors towards Iran and an increasing isolation of Israel is also not good for Israel's peace partners, Egypt and Jordan, which don't want terror or war."

"The tendency to go backwards on the peace process only serves to undermine the pragmatists and strengthen the radicals — as can be seen in the increased support for Hamas in the past few weeks — which in turn could lead to the creation of a new vicious circle of violence," he concluded.

Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah was among the first to arrive in Tehran, the first visit by a high-ranking Saudi leader since the revolution.

His visit follows almost a year of diplomatic efforts to improve ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter.

Other arrivals included Sheikh Jaber Sabah of Kuwait, a foe of Iran during its 1980-88 war with Iraq.

Iraq sent its vice president, Taha Yassin Ramadan.

He joins Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed Sahhaf in the highest-ranking Iraqi delegation to visit Tehran since the Gulf War.

President Elias Hrawi of Lebanon, a Christian, arrived with a delegation that included his Muslim prime minister, Rafik Hariri.

Still, there were some prominent no-shows: Egypt's Hosni Mubarak; for example, decided just days earlier to stay away.

The summit follows a two-day meeting of Muslim foreign ministers, who approved 140 resolutions for the meeting.

The ministers condemned military cooperation with Israel, in a slap at Turkey.

But with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt and other American allies present, the delegates stopped short of denouncing US policies.

Belly dancer sues Bassiouny for NIS 1m.

The belly dancer who earlier this year, accused Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny of attempted rape, filed a suit against him yesterday in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court for NIS 1 million in damages. She claimed that her life was destroyed by the alleged attack and the state attorney's decision to dismiss her charges.

The belly dancer is suing both Bassiouny and Dr. Yehoshafat Shulman, saying her reputation was ruined after she filed an assault complaint against the ambassador. She said she was no longer being hired to perform.

Shulman, a friend of Bassiouny's, is included in the suit for inviting the dancer to his home to meet with the ambassador several times, before the alleged attack took place in August.

The dancer, whose name is barred from publication, said in the suit that she agreed to meet Bassiouny at Shulman's home, after the ambassador convinced her he merely wanted to give her a birthday present and offer her jobs.

Once there, the woman claims, Bassiouny tried to persuade her to have sex with him and at one point forced her down on a bed, pinned her hands down, and kissed her.

She also claims that the police, giving undue consideration to foreign policy, which is not their domain, pressured her to drop her complaint.

The State Attorney's Office eventually dropped the case against Bassiouny for lack of evidence. State Attorney Edna Arbel elicited protests from women's groups when she commented that the woman had been "lightly clad and knew what she was letting herself in for." (News Agencies)

Histadrut, Treasury sign end-of-strike accord

The peacemaker from Brooklyn

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN and DAVID HARRIS

Hundreds of thousands of workers, from civil servants to bankers, from garbage collectors to child-care providers, went back to work yesterday, as the heads of the Histadrut and Treasury signed an understanding ending the five-day general strike.

Strike was about power of the union, Page 3
Treasury: New pension deal saves NIS 5.6b., Page 13

In an attempt to claim victory in the confrontation, a senior Treasury official quipped yesterday that while the Histadrut had won a Fiat 850 the government had earned a "shiny new Cadillac."

In the document, signed in the chambers of National Labor Court President Stephen Adler, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman agreed

that the Histadrut would be consulted before any decisions were made regarding health insurance, the state budget or structural economic changes.

The agreement also ratified the "Shohat-Peretz agreement," which calls for compensating wage earners for changes in pension terms.

Treasury sources confirmed yesterday that the agreement, reached just before last year's elections, which Neeman had challenged, was valid and had been signed with Treasury approval.

The Treasury also agreed to back down on plans to tax study funds.

The sides have 10 days to reach agreement over how to change civil servant pensions so that the funds are contributed by the workers and employers instead of coming solely from the state budget.

If the deadline isn't met, Neeman and Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz would have three days to negotiate the issue on their own. If they, too, fail, then Judge Adler will be brought in again to arbitrate.

See STRIKE, Page 5

Getting Amir Peretz and Yaakov Neeman to agree on something wasn't too difficult for National Labor Court President Stephen Adler. As the father of five boys, he knows from conflict resolution.

But a day after the 56-year-old Brooklyn native resolved the dispute that had gridlocked the nation, he could allow himself to feel a bit Solomonic, as he relaxed following what was arguably his biggest case to date.

"I'll tell you what I felt," he said yesterday, recalling what went on in the Jerusalem courtroom as an entire nation held its breath. "I felt like I was doing the job I was trained for. I felt that the economy was in grave danger. The labor relations that have been built up over years were in danger of breaking down, and the court had to do its utmost to try to bring the parties to a settlement."

So what was it like trying to mix oil with water as he painstakingly



National Labor Court President Stephen Adler (Brian Handler)

ground out an agreement? "The atmosphere was actually good, much to my surprise," he said. "They negotiated in a gentlemanly fashion, and they related to each other with respect. They discussed the issues in a substantive way."

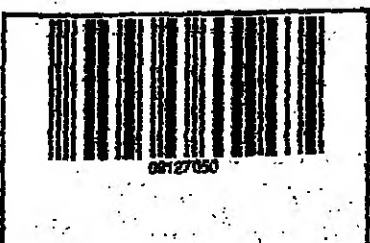
When the two men finally agreed and the strike was about to

end, "I felt very relieved," Adler said. "I think that it was very important for the country and labor relations that the two partners, the government as an employer and the Histadrut, should reach an agreement. Because without the communication between the two parties and the ability to reach an agreement, the whole purpose of the negotiations would not be fulfilled. The purpose of the negotiations is to reach an agreement, and it was important to do so."

When he walked out of the courtroom, "people were very happy, and the important thing was that the parties felt that I had assisted them to avert a potentially bad situation."

When he got home, his wife Ruth, a social worker who works with elderly disabled people, was already sleeping, "but this morning she was happy to see my picture in the paper."

See BROOKLYN, Page 5



NEWS

in brief

Kahalani warns PA against taking census

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani has ordered a letter sent to the Palestinian Authority warning them that any census taken in Jerusalem would violate the autonomy accord. He reiterated instructions to police to take whatever steps necessary to stop such activity.

The PA will begin collecting completed questionnaires tomorrow for its first census in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but has said it will stay out of eastern Jerusalem to avoid a confrontation with Israel. The census will last until December 24, and results are expected to be announced on January 4.

Elli Wohlgelegen

Papon denies knowing Nazis would deport Jews

Accused French collaborator Maurice Papon declared yesterday he was astonished to see Jews arrested on his orders in 1942 being sent off to detention centers en route to Nazi death camps. Papon, who denies prosecution charges he sent 1,560 Jews off to the camps, told the court he had no idea what the wartime Nazi occupiers planned to do with the Jews.

The former Vichy regime official in Bordeaux said his signature on arrest orders before the first major round-up of Jews in July 1942 was only a formality and argued he had no powers despite his role as a senior bureaucrat.

Civil plaintiffs in the case, many of them Bordeaux Jews who lost relatives in the Holocaust, accuse Papon of knowing that sending Jews to the Drancy transit camp near Paris meant they would probably end up in Auschwitz.

Reuters

Police raid office suspected of financing Hamas

Police yesterday confiscated documents from an office in A-Ram, in north Jerusalem, which is suspected of laundering money for Hamas in the territories.

The office of the American Holy Land Foundation was ordered closed in May, but there were increased suspicions in the last few weeks that it was continuing to function.

Elli Wohlgelegen

Meteorologists warn of brief winter spell

The meteorological service yesterday warned the public to prepare for a brief blast of winter, as strong winds lashed parts of the country last night in an apparent prelude to stormy weather. Thunderstorms and winds, with gusts reaching up to 70 kph, are forecast for today.

The weather bureau said there would be a risk of flooding in low-lying areas as the forecast rain spreads from the north to the central and southern regions. Drivers were warned to take extra care on wet roads and particularly to avoid having to brake suddenly. The storms are due to die out during the course of tomorrow, although it is expected to remain colder than usual for the time of year.

David Rudge

Agudath Israel launching PR campaign

Taking a page from the American Jewish public-relations playbook, Agudath Israel of America is planning a \$2 million newspaper ad campaign to rebut "the lies spread about Orthodoxy."

"Reform and Conservative leaders are trying to brainwash the Israeli public to accept their movements," Rabbi Moshe Sherer, Agudath Israel's president, said last month at the Orthodox organization's national convention.

The Reform and Conservative movements also are trying to pressure the US Congress and casting Israel as a violator of religious rights, Sherer said, calling the tactics used to vilify the Orthodox reprehensible.

The ads are to appear beginning next month in Israeli and American newspapers.

Marilyn Henry

Prime minister goes to Eilat

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visits Eilat today for meetings with local politicians and business leaders and to appear before high school students and journalists.

Mayor Gabi Kadosh is laying out a traditional welcome in which the city's rabbis will greet Netanyahu with bread and salt. Afterwards Netanyahu will visit Eilat's Economic Forum and confer with municipal leaders.

Towards the end of his stay, the prime minister will attend an international tennis tournament and drive through a new neighborhood. It is Netanyahu's first visit to Eilat since he was elected 18 months ago.

Jay Bushinsky

PM gives update on Albright talks

By JAY BUSHINSKY

The cabinet was briefed yesterday by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on his talks with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. The cabinet also discussed the precise percentage of West Bank territory to be transferred to the Palestinian Authority and the percentage due to remain under Israeli control at least until the end of final-status talks.

Netanyahu's media adviser, Shai Bazak, emphatically denied a Channel 1 report that the prime minister recommended that the IDF evacuate more than 10 per-

cent of the area in which it currently is deployed.

The denial was in sharp contrast to foreign media reports that Albright dismissed the government's initial idea of a withdrawal from 6-8% of the West Bank as insufficient and unlikely to win PA acceptance.

Albright pressured Israeli and Palestinian leaders to make key decisions to advance the peace process in recent meetings, but said yesterday that Washington would not dictate terms for an IDF withdrawal from the West Bank.

She told reporters yesterday after meeting French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin at the end of a four-day visit to France that, "We are not asking the Israelis for a percentage now." But Albright said that both sides "must do a lot" to revive the peace process.

Albright is demanding from Israel a "credible" new troop pull-back in the West Bank and a settlement freeze. From the Palestinians she wants a firmer commitment to protect Israel from attack by Moslem extremists.

"I think that both sides must do a lot," Albright said in halting French. "One hundred percent effort on security matters is absolutely necessary for the situa-

tion to improve in the region." Netanyahu also reported to the cabinet yesterday on his summit talks with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Bonn and with Jospin and French President Jacques Chirac in Paris.

He is expected to rendezvous with Albright again on December 17. It is generally believed that Paris will be the venue for this meeting and that Geneva again will serve as the venue for the secretary of state's projected meeting with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat.

In the course of the cabinet discussion, Netanyahu stressed that

Israel has not made a commitment to pause settlement activity.

The special committee dealing with further redeployment headed by Netanyahu will meet on Thursday and the cabinet is to discuss the issue Sunday.

The cabinet agenda yesterday included a discussion of Mossad agent Yehuda Gil's alleged submission of false intelligence data about Syria to his handlers. Netanyahu said this was "a grave phenomenon" but contended that Gil's information "did not change the policy of Israel's current and past governments towards Syria."

B'tselem report: No deportations since 1992

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

A report released yesterday by the local human rights group B'tselem noted that since the onset of the intifada on December 9, 1987, through November 30, 1346 Palestinians were killed by the IDF or security forces. Another 133 Palestinians were killed by Israeli civilians during this period, while 256 Israeli civilians and 127 IDF and security forces were killed by Palestinians.

The human rights organization noted that from 1987 until the signing of the Oslo Accords in 1993, 1,087 Palestinians were killed by the IDF and security forces and 75 were killed by Israeli civilians. In the same period, 101 Israeli civilians and 59 IDF soldiers and security forces were killed by Palestinians.

Following the signing of the Oslo Accords in September 1993 through November 1997, 259 Palestinians were killed by the IDF and 56 by Israeli civilians, while Palestinians have killed 135 Israeli civilians and 68 IDF soldiers and security forces, B'tselem said.

While no Palestinians have been deported from the West Bank or Gaza Strip since the end of 1992, B'tselem said that IDF and security forces have destroyed the homes of 81 families of accused assailants, from the end of 1992 through the end of 1997.

In a related development, the Islamic bloc won a majority in a student election held at An Najah



A veiled Palestinian student looks at a campaign leaflet during student elections held yesterday at An-Najah University in Nablus. The green sash worn by several of the women reads, "The Palestinian Islamic student bloc for Palestine."

University in Nablus yesterday, taking 40 seats, while the Fatah wing won 35, followed by the PFLP which won 4 seats and the

students' unity bloc which gained one seat. About 2000 students demonstrated yesterday at the Islamic

University in Hebron marking 10 years since the uprising was started. Some held banners calling for the release of Palestinian prisoners

and for a freeze in settlement construction.

Mohammed Najib continued to this report from the Islamic University in Hebron.

Israel and Turkey share interests

ANALYSIS

By HARRY RUBIN

"Remarkably wonderful" is how an Israeli expert characterized Israel-Turkey relations last week in Istanbul. That's how Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai should find his visit to Turkey.

The two countries cooperate in so many ways because they have such parallel interests.

Both worry about Syria, Iran, and Iraq attacking or subverting them, although they have different strategies for handling the threat.

Syria supports the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) in acts of terrorism, claims Turkish territory, and tries to bully Turkey in water disputes. Iran interferes in Turkish politics, backs radical Islamic terrorists in Turkey and indirectly helps the PKK. Iraq threatened Turkey even before invading Kuwait in 1990 and President Saddam Hussein remembers Turkey's pivotal role in helping the coalition that beat him in 1991.

Israel and Turkey mostly concur regarding Syria, but an Israel-Syria peace treaty would be one of Turkey's worst nightmares.

Ankara, unlike Jerusalem, also wants to increase trade and ensure a peaceful border with Iran and especially Iraq. Turkey also favors ending the sanctions against Saddam, in hopes that he would shut down the PKK bases in northern Iraq.

Despite these differences, however, Israel and Turkey agree on one thing: being ready to defend themselves. Turkey's powerful military wants cooperation with Israel in training, maintenance, and technology. The main topic of Mordechai's visit is Turkish arms purchases, including a large order for Israel's Popeye missile.

But there's much more to the relationship: profitable Israeli tourism and growing trade; Israel's friends in Washington lobbying for Turkey; and cooperation on development projects in ex-Soviet, ethnic Turkish countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Both countries also worry about renewed Russian ambitions. In addition, Turkish disgust over being rejected by the European Union makes it seek other friends. Problems in the Israeli-Turkish relationship are surprisingly small.

See SHARE, Page 5

On 10th anniversary of intifada outbreak PLC calls for struggle until statehood

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Members of the Palestinian Legislative Council marked the tenth anniversary of the outbreak of the intifada by opening yesterday's session with a moment of silence in memory of Palestinians killed in the uprising.

While the council refrained from issuing an official statement, Palestinian officials debated the intifada's significance in the context of current peace moves.

The consensus was that Palestinians would continue their struggle until they achieve independent statehood.

Political analyst Ghassan Khattib who heads the Jerusalem Media and Communication Center in East Jerusalem, maintained that the intifada pressured Israel into "realizing it was fighting a losing battle." Khattib asserted that whereas the signing of the Oslo Accords offered coexistence, Palestinians hoped that the peace process would bring political achievements. He argued that this has not happened because of Israel's "refusal" to implement the accords in full. Khattib also charged that the US was biased.

In addition, he said, the Palestinian people have lost confidence in their negotiators. "If the Palestinian leadership deals with

the negotiations in the courageous manner the Palestinians acted during the intifada, the results will improve," he maintained.

PLC member Marwan Barghout, secretary of Fatah in the West Bank, charged that the intifada's goals have not been realized and so the uprising had to continue in spirit.

"The intifada stopped with the commencement of the peace process, but if the negotiations break down the intifada will return, using different methods and techniques," Barghout said.

Barghout scoffed at Israel's lat-

est proposed withdrawal. "The issue is not 6% or 8% but the implementation of the signed accords and agreements that were witnessed by the US," he charged. "We want a three phase redeployment of 91%, and the opening of sea and airports as well as safe passages," he said.

"Israel has a choice, either the Israeli government's intention is peace or a return to violence," he said.

Abdel Rahim Mallouh, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and member of the executive committee,

charged that the PA does not truly represent Palestinians.

Mallouh also charged that the Palestinians would not rest until Israel returned all occupied land.

He denied reports that Abu Dis could become the capital of a Palestinian state. He charged that the PLC had already agreed to make east Jerusalem the capital.

"If the Palestinian people have to choose they will fight against occupation. It is difficult to decide ten years later if the intifada was a good step but all Palestinians believe it was a noble one," he said.

Intifada changed lives of settlers

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Since the outbreak of the intifada in 1987, the population of settlements in Judea, Samaria and Gaza rose from 50,000 to a current 170,000.

Many settlers who had been on good terms with their Palestinian neighbors were forced to break off their relations with the outbreak of the intifada, often fearing that they would endanger their Palestinian neighbors' lives.

Almost overnight, the settlers' lifestyle changed; security fences surrounded their settlements, windows on school buses were changed to a more protective glass. As the Palestinians became more sophisticated in their intifada techniques, such as mixing glue into their firebombs, settlers learned how to defend themselves.

"I remember how we all taught our children to kneel down on the floor of the car in certain areas we

were driving in, and how to make a speedy exit from the car if a Molotov cocktail was thrown at us," recalled settlers' council spokeswoman Yehudit Tayer.

From 1987 to 1993, 185 Israeli civilians were murdered throughout Judea, Samaria and Gaza, but the signing of the Oslo Accord in 1993 brought about a sharp increase in terrorism and since then some 300 Israelis were murdered and thousands injured, Tamar said.

It was during this period, said Tayer, that the IDF beefed up security and started escorting school buses which had been armored and bullet-proofed. Settlers began to carry weapons and people hooked up to emergency depots established in many settlements, enabling them to alert authorities if they came under attack. Electronic gates were installed at the entrance to settlements, manned around the clock by IDF soldiers and residents.

Eizenstat asks states not to interfere with Nazi gold

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — As rumors of a settlement with the Swiss banks grew in intensity yesterday, US Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat told state and local finance officials to stop meddling in US foreign policy with threats of sanctions against the Swiss.

US foreign policy should be run by the federal government, Eizenstat said yesterday in a statement to some 200 public finance officials and pension fund managers. They were meeting in New York at a conference called by City Controller Alan Hevesi to review Switzerland's handling of war-era assets and the question of sanctions against its banks.

The question of sanctions was first raised in March 1996 by the World Jewish Congress. Yesterday, however, WJC secretary-general Israel Singer said,

"We don't like boycotts of any kind," and called on the public finance officers to agree to a 90-day "moratorium" on economic action against the Swiss.

Rumors of a "global settlement" — worth some \$3 billion — wafted through yesterday's meeting at the Plaza Hotel. They came only a few days after WJC President Edgar Bronfman said: "It occurs to me that 'Let's forget all this nonsense about great funds and commissions and the committee that's looking into bank accounts.' Let's just say there's a figure at which point we could just settle the whole damn thing, which includes, of course, the class-action suits in New York."

Singer said he hoped a global settlement could be reached during the 90-day moratorium. He did not offer details. However, lawyers for claimants who have filed \$20 billion suits against the

three major Swiss banks said the WJC was not authorized to make a settlement on their behalf.

Thomas Borer, the Swiss envoy dealing with Switzerland's war-era history, declined to discuss a settlement. But he took exception to Bronfman's suggestion, saying that panels to audit the Swiss banks and to allocate a humanitarian fund were set up in cooperation with the WJC.

Hevesi this fall barred the Union

Bank of Switzerland from participating in a New York City debt offering. Massachusetts was threatening sanctions.

LIAR.

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Strike was about power of the union

Tens of thousands of people who, as a result of the recent strike, were stuck in or out of the country, or were without drinking water, a shakel in their wallets or a kindergarten to send their children to, undoubtedly had a few choice curses for the Histadrut and its chairman, Amir Peretz.

But the cursing itself was an acknowledgment of the power of the union. And the power of the union, say analysts, was what the strike was all about.

"The Histadrut was on the ropes," said Dan Jacobson, a professor at Tel Aviv University's department of labor studies. "It was financially bankrupt and its numbers had dwindled as a result of the Health Insurance Law. The impression was that it was no longer a factor, and could not mobilize the workers on a large scale."

"The strike proved that it is a factor. Everyone now knows that you can not laugh at or make light of the Histadrut."

According to Jacobson, the strike not only put the union back on the map, it also all but assured that Peretz will be elected as Histadrut head — a job he inherited from Haim Ramon in 1995 when Ramon joined the Peres government — in the labor federation's elections next year.

The elections may very well have been on Peretz's mind when he agreed to end the strike as well.

"There is a limit to how much pressure you can place," Jacobson said, adding that the strike ended just at the right time for Histadrut. The hardships were incurred not only by the general public, he said, but also by the strikers them-

selves, many of whom don't have strike funds.

Roby Nathanson, formerly head of the Histadrut's Institute for Social and Economic Research, and today the head of a Tel Aviv-based economic think tank, agreed with Jacobson and said that had the strike lasted any longer, negative public opinion would have begun to work against the union's goals.

"The Histadrut is sensitive to public opinion," he said. "If the strike had gotten much more unpopular, it could have led to a situation where those striking would have themselves begun to break ranks and not cooperate."

Nathanson said, however, that by using the strike weapon now, over a pension issue that does not affect everyone, deprived the union of the ability to use it for other — bigger — issues.

"One rule I always believed in when I was at the Histadrut was if you have power, don't make use of it — try to achieve your goals by other means," Nathanson said. "Because when you use power you deteriorate it, you turn public opinion against you and eventually lose ground."

According to Nathanson, this is precisely the dilemma the Histadrut now faces. The union proved its ability to affect vital services, "but how many times will the Histadrut be able to strike?" he asked. "Granted, they had a certain achievement, but there are so many other things wrong — income disparities, rising unemployment, cuts in the health system — how will they now be able to make an impact on those issues?"

Garbage strike enters 13th day

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

The strike by Tel Aviv sanitation workers enters its thirteenth day today after workers' representatives and the city failed to reach agreement last night.

In certain parts of Tel Aviv yesterday, citizens were spotted walking around in gas masks, white sanitary masks, or simply covering their noses and mouths with their shirts or handkerchiefs. The stench in some places, especially near the markets of Hatikva and Hacarmel, where rotting meat constituted a major part of the garbage, was intolerable.

In other places, business owners closed down because the heaps of garbage filling the sidewalks and spilling over into the streets prevented access to their shops.

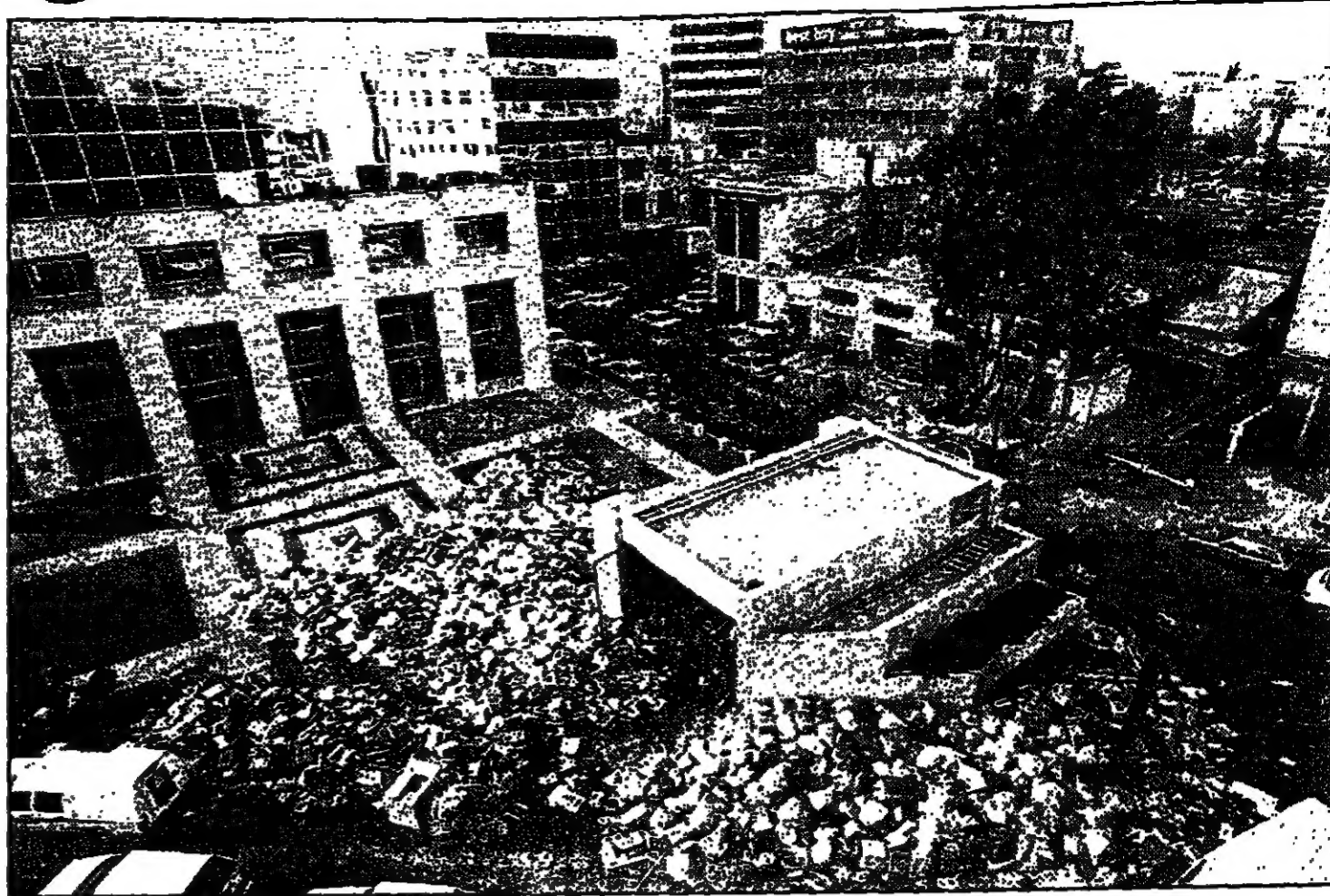
The legal advisers of the municipal workers' union and the city worked into the night yesterday to hammer out an agreement.

An agreement to end the strike was obtained from Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz, who was called to the rescue by Mayor Ronni Milo, after negotiations between the city and workers union quagmired after midnight Sunday.

Peretz, who earlier in the day signed an agreement with the Treasury ending the general economic strike, dropped into City Hall on his way to London yesterday afternoon. He got both sides to agree that the city employ private contractors to clean up four quarters, using no more than eight trucks.

This seemed to end the dispute, which focused on the sanitation workers objection to the city's hiring private contractors to collect garbage.

It was agreed private contractors would collect the garbage in



A plaza near Tel Aviv's old central bus station is filled with garbage as a result of the sanitation workers' strike. (Gideon Markovitz)

Florentine, Kiryat Shalom, Ramat Aviv Gimmel and Neveh Avivim. On Saturdays, non-Jewish workers and contractors' vehicles will clean up entertainment centers all over town.

The stalling of the talks Sunday night triggered off a series of disturbances yesterday. Some 300 sanitation workers demonstrated in Hatikva

Quarter, blocking Etzel Street until the police cleared the route to traffic. Six workers were arrested at a demonstration near the Hiriya garbage dump, after protesting strikers slashed the tires of three contractors' trucks. More than 100 garbage containers and bins were set on fire all over the city on Sunday and yesterday.

Meanwhile, dozens of Kitan textile workers continued to hole themselves in the Nazereth factory for a second day yesterday. They are protesting the intention of management to lay off workers and move the plant to Jordan.

They have called a demonstration on Thursday across from the Hussein Bridge in the Jordan Valley.

Details of initial pensions deal

The Treasury and Histadrut have reached an agreement on the details of an initial pension deal. The deal, which is part of a larger agreement, provides for a 10% increase in the minimum pension from NIS 530 to NIS 583. The deal also provides for a 10% increase in the maximum pension from NIS 1,500 to NIS 1,650. The deal is subject to approval by the Histadrut's general assembly and the Treasury's cabinet. The deal is expected to be signed by the end of the month.

Jerusalem returns to normal after strike

By ELLI WOHLGELERINTER

Yesterday wasn't only the day to go back to work for the thousands of striking workers, it was also the day for thousands of others to take care of unfinished business that had been put on hold — pay bills, mail letters and finally get a hold of some cash.

The information clerk on the ground floor at Jerusalem City Hall said that at least 1,500 more people than on an average day showed up in the morning to pay their municipal property tax, and that the waiting line had stretched across the whole of the City Hall lobby. (He said the line would be longer today, when the discount begins for those wishing to pay their property tax early. The office will be open from 7 a.m. till 7 p.m.)

"Was it fun being on strike?" he asked. "Not for me. I wanted to come to work. And I lost three days' pay as well."

Across the street in Jerusalem's main post office, the lines were also long. Augustin Hernandez, from Mexico, had a stack of envelopes in his hand that needed to be mailed soon.

"I was worried that these Christmas cards wouldn't get out in time," he said. "But I think now they'll get delivered before the 25th."

Julie Klapper Sennott stood in line holding a bunch of bills that needed to be paid to America. "I have to send these by express mail, otherwise I'll have to pay huge fees, like on my mortgage," she said.

The biggest hassle caused by the strike was getting an immunization shot for her six-month-old son, William.

"But they're so backed up, it'll be another week before he gets his shot," she said.

A security guard at the post office, Michael Lemberg, said he worked last week during the strike, informing everyone who came in that the post office was closed, for reasons he couldn't understand.

"They asked me why, I told them to go ask [Histadrut Chairman] Amir Peretz. What could I tell them?"

But the biggest relief yesterday was the availability of money. At Check Point on Ben-Yehuda Street downtown, the strike "provided less business than we all thought it would," said Doron Strauss. "Israelis didn't come in because they didn't have the shekels to buy dollars for overseas travel, and they couldn't get out of

the country because the airport was on strike. And we didn't have the usual tourist trade, because they weren't coming into the country either."

Up the street, at the main branch of Israel Discount Bank, a handwritten sign taped to the wall informed customers that the bank had extended its operating hours for the day to make up for the strike.

The bank was busy all day,

workers said, so much so that the crush of business resulted in the computers crashing twice in the morning, once for an hour and the second time for 45 minutes.

"I ran out of money, that's why I'm here today," said Rabbi Aryeh Weiss of Kiryat Arba, as he withdrew money from the automatic teller machine. "I usually keep some money in reserve at home, and I had enough to get

me to Shabbat, buy I ran out and couldn't buy anything yesterday."

Weiss said he was upset at the strike, because "it accomplished nothing and made everyone suffer, so that Amir Peretz can say, 'We were victorious, the workers won.' That kind of rhetoric is from 50 years ago, nobody speaks that way anymore. People are too busy trying to make money."

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

Winners and losers

The Treasury-Histadrut agreement ending the five-day general strike that paralyzed the country gave the press plenty of material to use for analyzing the achievements of the unprecedented war Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz launched.

Ma'ariv's Moshe Peri writes that Peretz won his battle for pension rights and the implementation of existing agreements. In addition, Peretz has proven that "he is not a man to be messed with."

According to Yediot Aharonot's Hagar Emsw, the Histadrut's status has gained a boost from the strike. "It has turned overnight from an organization that had gone bankrupt — to one with public respect," she writes, adding that the "government no longer needs to just hear the Histadrut's demands, but must listen to them."

In an article entitled "Peretz has won, legal system has lost," Ha'aretz's Nehemia Strassler focuses on the damage done to the legal system by Peretz's decision to ignore the back-to-work orders Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein issued and National Labor Court President Steve Adler's decision to postpone the contempt of court suits.

"Even Adler chose to pardon the honor of the court — the loser is the legal system," Strassler writes. "The most significant meaning of the struggle with the Treasury, lies in the democratic aspect,"

Prof. Francis Raday writes in Yediot that "The workers unions always functioned as means to protect democratic principles against injuries inflicted by autocratic governments."

Gil affair

As the case of the false information an agent gave to the Mossad unravels, the media attempt to assess the impact of the story on the intelligence community and society.

"Almost every failure within the intelligence community is followed by mud-wrestling abundant with slander," Yediot's Ron Ben-Yishai writes, referring to the rivalry between former Mossad director Shabtai Shavit, former OC Intelligence, Uri Saguy and the current Mossad director, Danny Yatom.

Ben-Yishai adds that following Yatom's mishap in the Mashal affair, his exposure of Gil's conduct may be an asset to his damaged reputation.

Ma'ariv's Bamby Sheleg also refers to the timing of the affair's exposure, claiming that it is not coincidental: "An interesting question is: who leaked the classified information and why do so in the present time? Is the leak meant to advance a Syrian option and to anesthetize the Palestinian front?"

According to Ha'aretz's Gidon Samet, "the Mossad is the mole," explaining that unlike other state bodies it has been isolated from external criticism and inspection. "The only way to purify the system

is by 'exercising cruel means against the Mossad and not licking its wounds...without fearing an upheaval from within.'"

"What is most scary is the fact that this bizarre event fits in so well with everything else that's happened here lately," concludes Ma'ariv's Chemi Shalev.

Inability to launch

With the opening of the Labor convention on Sunday, Ha'aretz's Avram Golan exposes the lack of party unity, quoting one official as saying: "Here exists a weak and confused party, waiting impatiently for Netanyahu to fall, but no one is waiting for [Labor leader] Ehud Barak to win."

Ma'ariv's Yosef Lapid claims that Barak is called to prove to his party's members that his controversial suggestion to draft those exempt from military service into national service is not another "zig on the zig zag road that he has been treading since being elected as chairman."

A meeting with Albright

Yediot's Sever Plotzker is convinced that Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will press Prime Minister Binjamin Netanyahu into making concessions. "Like a good and tough kindergarten teacher, Albright will bring Netanyahu and Palestinian Chairman Yasser Arafat to the common playground and force them to end their feud."

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Despite Peres's statement on Golan:

Third Way still favors unity gov't

By LIAT COLLINS and DAVID RUDGE

Third Way whip Yehuda Harel yesterday said he would continue to push for a national unity government although he strongly criticized Labor Party leader Ehud Barak for not publicly distancing himself from MK Shimon Peres's statement Sunday that the Golan Heights should be given to Syria in return for peace.

"The Golan Heights are stronger than any government or any party," he said. "Many of those who voted for Netanyahu did so because he was the lesser of two evils. It's possible that in the past two years he hasn't been so good but now Labor has proven that [he] is the lesser of two evils indeed."

Harel added: "I think that in this manner Labor is giving the Likud not just another three years in power but another seven years. Netanyahu is definitely preferable to Peres and so far Barak hasn't disassociated himself from these things and the applause at the Labor convention went to Peres, not to Barak."

He said, however, he would continue to call and act for a national unity government because he believes the public is united in its consensus against a pullout from the Golan Heights.

Peres, who spoke at the Labor party's convention in Tel Aviv on Sunday night, reiterated his remarks in favor of a withdrawal in an interview with Israel Radio yesterday.

"I don't know why [Binyamin] Netanyahu's government wants to waste time," Peres said. "We have to tell the people the truth and... I feel that time is running out."

The Golan Residents Committee yesterday urged the Labor Party to drop the idea of withdrawal from the Golan.

"The idea of peace with Syria in exchange for complete withdrawal from the Golan is a false dream, because such an agreement is unacceptable to the majority of the Israeli public," said Golan Residents Committee chairman Avi Zeira.

"Shimon Peres, who led the Labor party to total collapse, is a man of history and the pages of history will judge him. If the Labor party has any dreams of returning to power, it has to shake off people like Peres who led the party into the political wilderness."

"Instead, it has to return to a path of common sense which is by retaining the Golan under Israeli sovereignty, while continuing to seek ways and formulas of achieving an agreement with Syria, but not peace at any price."

Knesset calls for Pollard's release

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset sent out a strong call yesterday for the release of Jonathan Pollard. The matter was raised by several MKs as a motion to the agenda and united the House. Four ministers - Nathan Sharansky, Yuli Edelstein, Ariel Sharon and Moshe Katsav - were present, an unusually high turnout.

Edelstein, who recently visited Pollard in prison, said he hopes to see him here for the country's 50th anniversary celebrations. He said Pollard had called on Israel to act more on his behalf, saying that the US will not release him if Israel is not more active in

demanding it. Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom, answering the motions, said: "This government decided to act openly and publicly for Pollard's release. For years, efforts were made more secretly but were not fruitful, unfortunately. Therefore, the government has decided to be more open. I hope that soon Jonathan Pollard will be a visitor to the Knesset as an Israeli citizen."

He said the fact that Pollard had expressed regret for his actions and serve 12 years in prison and the regional and international changes that have taken place were justification for a pardon.

Two no-confidence votes defeated

By LIAT COLLINS

In what seems to have become a weekly ritual, no-confidence motions against Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu were defeated yesterday, after lengthy debate.

The two motions - by Meretz and Hadash, and Labor and the Democratic Arab Party - were on both political and economic issues. The vote, held on both motions together was 45 to 52. The two Mokedet MKs abstained.

Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom, who answered on the government's behalf, scorned

the opposition's technique of filing no-confidence motions every week. "It goes on and on - and what for? Just to prove you exist?" asked Shalom.

The motions were filed before the strike began last week, but naturally the subject was raised in the debate.

"We are witnessing a serious phenomenon in which the prime minister is busy all day in his own fight for survival and the question of 'how do I continue to be prime minister' and not the state's interests," said Nissim Zivili (Labor).

He accused Netanyahu of sus-

pending the negotiations with the Palestinians for no reason and harming Israel's relations with the US and Arab world.

On the economic front, Zivili complained that Netanyahu supported Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and did not honor agreements made with the previous government.

"What did the prime minister think? That he could push the workers into a corner and they'd take it quietly?"

Walid Sadek (Meretz) said: "The only withdrawal Netanyahu has made so far has been the withdrawal from Oslo, in viola-

tion of all the agreements that were signed and his promises."

In his answer, Shalom called on Labor Party leader Ehud Barak to disassociate himself from Shimon Peres's statements at the party's conference.

"Is Ehud Barak, who has no stand [of his own], supporting the establishment of a Palestinian state and withdrawal from the whole Golan Heights like Shimon Peres says? When he doesn't rule out these things, that [makes it] Labor's stand," Shalom said.

He repeated again that Israel would "respond" if Yasser Arafat

unilaterally declares a state.

Regarding the strike, Shalom said the promises Labor was referring to "were handwritten on a piece of yellow paper 19 days before the elections." He implied that then-finance minister, Avraham Shohat, knew Labor would lose the elections and agreed to things he knew could not be carried out.

"The future of the workers' pensions must be dealt with; but it should be done in the right way - not so that Amir Peretz can return to public awareness a few months before the Knesset elections," Shalom said.

Ugly incident at Knesset cafeteria

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset cafeteria witnessed an unpleasant incident yesterday when former Labor MK and neighborhood activist, Se'adia Marciano, shouted at Likud MK Ze'ev Boim a stream of abuse including: "You dirty SS-man," "Stinking Ashkenazi," "Sephardi hater," and "Son-of-a-bitch." Marciano's outburst came after Boim signified to him by hand to lower his voice.

Boim complained to Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon and said he would file a police complaint.

Boim asked that Tichon rescind Marciano's permanent permit to the building, which he holds as a former MK who served for a few months in the early 1980s. He has all the rights of a former parliament member including access to the legislature, and he is also invited to major events.

Marciano refused to comment on the incident.



Humanitarian award

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon (left) hands a NIS 5,000 check to Mohammed Jarawish at a ceremony at the Knesset yesterday. Jarawish's seven-year-old son Hassan Ali Jarawish died last month after being shot in the head with a rubber bullet by an IDF soldier during disturbances at Rachel's Tomb. Tichon selected the Jarawish family, which donated the boy's organs to three different children, as one of the six recipients of the Knesset Speaker's prize for improving the quality of life.

(Amir Harel)

Discussion on immigrant group turns political

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Yesterday's Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee discussion of Mofet, the immigrant support group named in a recent police investigation involving individuals in the Prime Minister's

Office, quickly turned political.

Police are investigating how a request by the group for NIS 2 million was submitted three months past a government-set deadline, but approved nonetheless. Netanyahu's adviser on immigrant absorption, Zev Geisel, who once headed

Mofet, is suspected of requesting that the application be given priority, with the application, then stamped retroactively with a forged date.

Moshe Leon, the new director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, was also questioned, but a senior source in the Prime Minister's Office said he was not a suspect.

Geisel, appearing before the committee, attacked the media for misleading the public into believing the group helped only immigrant children and had received funding from the Prime Minister's Office. Orna Schneiderman, director of Mofet, said the group's funding came primarily from parents' payments.

Labor MK Ophir Pines said the group had been victimized by powerful people in the political system who wanted to help it too much.

Committee chairwoman MK Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) said that the sudden interest of the Left in Mofet "has a clear political feel to it, which totally warps the lofty goals for which it was created."

Will the real Yehuda Gil please stand up?

By ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

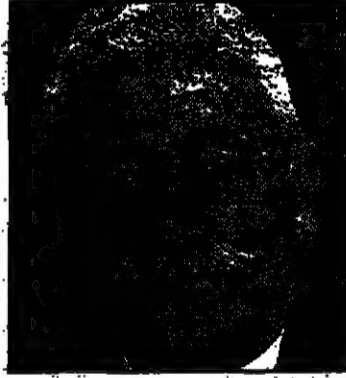
It's David Ben-Gurion's fault that businessman Yehuda Gil has had to suffer from the latest Mossad crisis.

He is one of 17 men in the country who share a name with the agent accused of falsifying information about Syria. But the reason why Gil the businessman has the same name, according to his attorney, Ya'acov Cohen, is because Ben-Gurion persuaded him as a youth to Hebraicize his name.

Gil the businessman, the most prominent of those with the same name as the agent, is managing director of Lapidot, a company that deals in oil exploration.

Cohen said that his client had weighed seeking an injunction from the Tel Aviv District court to force publication of the accused Gil's photograph, so that Gil the businessman could have his name cleared. Patriotism got the better of his client, Cohen said, and he decided against going to court.

For Gil the businessman, the episode has been a rehash of what



Businessman Yehuda Gil

he went through seven years ago when the Mossad's Gil was described in Victor Ostrovsky's book, *By Way of Deception*, and an Israeli newspaper published a picture of the wrong man.

"Since then, he has had to be extremely careful about security when traveling for business in the Arab world and eastern Europe, for fear that his picture sits in the archives of terrorist organizations," said Cohen.

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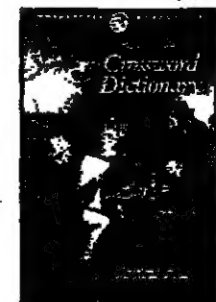
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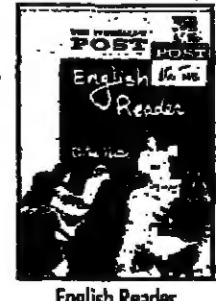
Dear Ruthie
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Eye on the Media
Was NIS45; Fair price 10



Oleg in Oslo
Was NIS30; Fair price 10



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100 DAYS

Cabinet confirms Leon appointment

By JAY BUSHINSKY

The cabinet yesterday confirmed the appointment of Moshe Leon as director-general of the Prime Minister's Office. Leon is considered by colleagues as a financial wizard and is credited with enabling the Likud to rehabilitate itself in time for last year's elections. Afterwards he helped

double the scope of the government's privatization to its current level of NIS 8 b.

He was the heir apparent to his controversial predecessor, Avigdor Lieberman, having served as his deputy while filling the concurrent role of economic adviser to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The 37-year old certified public accountant was invited by

Netanyahu and Lieberman to join their staff in July 1996 immediately after Netanyahu took office.

Last January, he was given the post of director of the Prime Minister's Bureau.

Leon, who is married and has three children, graduated from Bar-Ilan University where he earned his BA in economics and accounting.

Upon completion of his professional training, he joined an accounting firm where he gained considerable experience dealing with the problems of some of Israel's major firms.

In 1992, Leon began auditing the Likud's books and helped extricate the party from a financial crisis by rescheduling debts and reorganizing the party's financial structure.

Leon's Orthodox background also includes a stint in the IDF's rabbinical troupe, performing as a soloist in liturgical and cantorial works. He ultimately became the troupe's commanding officer.

The impeccably dressed Leon maintains a modest, but serious composure, his mind focussed on every detail relevant to the prime minister's timetable.



Forward march!

Children in Ramat Gan hold signs for peace and Israel's 50th anniversary in an annual march held yesterday in memory of the city's first mayor, Avraham Krimitzki, on the 28th anniversary of his passing.

(Dov Oshinsky/Israel Sun)

Retired police officer suspected of slaying former lover

By DAVID RUDGE

The retired police officer suspected of murdering a Kiryat Motzkin woman with whom he was having an affair was expected to be remanded in custody for 12 days yesterday.

The suspect, Moshe Pe'er, was brought to a Haifa Magistrate Court last night after being released from Assaf Harofeh hospital, where he was rushed after reportedly trying to commit suicide by swallowing tablets.

A neighbor found the body of Levana Ben-Nun, 50 with a fatal gunshot wound, outside her home on Rehov Weizman in Kiryat Motzkin Sunday evening.

Magen David Adom paramedics failed to revive Ben-Nun, who was pronounced dead at the scene.

Searches were launched for the suspect, a Ramle resident in his

60's, whose name hasn't been published, after learning that he had some connection to the woman. He was tracked down and arrested after midnight at the gravesite of a relative at the cemetery in Gezer, which is near Ramle.

According to police the victim had sought to break off an affair with the suspect, and had filed a complaint with police against him two weeks ago.

Relatives said that the suspect had a gun license despite past complaints he had threatened to kill someone and to commit suicide.

They said he had suffered from emotional and financial problems and was under psychiatric treatment. His wife reportedly left him several months ago and then returned after he tried to kill himself. Later she reportedly filed for a divorce.

Lubelsky calls for gun control

By ESTHER HECHT

A very specific type of gun control might prevent the murders of women such as Levana Ben-Nun, according to Masha Lubelsky, senior adviser to Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani on the status of women and the prevention of domestic violence.

"Police should be instructed to confiscate the weapon of any man whose wife or partner has filed a complaint against him," Lubelsky said yesterday. She was referring to complaints concerning physical violence, harassment or threats.

Current regulations do not make confiscation mandatory, but rather leave the decision to the officer handling the complaint, she said. The change would not require legislation and could be implemented immediately, she pointed out.

This would be more effective than a tighter gun-control law, which would lead immediately to a black market in weapons, she added.

According to Lubelsky, her demand for the change received an icy welcome by the ministry's top brass. "They reacted as though this were too extreme a sanction," she said, but added that they later agreed to look into it.

Lubelsky doesn't see the sanction as extreme at all, especially in light of incorrect judgment calls by the police. "In the case

of Ben-Nun, both the [suspect's] wife and the victim had complained - in two different districts - but the police apparently didn't see the gravity of his keeping his weapon."

It is crucial that police confiscate the weapon, not only in all the cases mentioned by Lubelsky, but also in cases of stalking, said Ronit Lev-Ari, a criminologist who is in charge of Na'amat's department for the treatment and prevention of domestic violence.

"And if men feel they've been wronged by the confiscation, let them go to court to get it reversed," she said.

Lev-Ari also had an important message for women. "Every woman who wants to end a relationship with a jealous, obsessive man who has terrorized her in any way should first seek professional advice, from any of the centers throughout the country that combat domestic violence - whether they are centers of the [Labor and Social Affairs Ministry or of the women's organizations]."



Masha Lubelsky

Liat Collins adds: MK Yossi Katz (Labor), chairman of the Knesset State Control Committee, yesterday called on Kahalani to refresh police instructions on handling cases of domestic violence.

"It is unacceptable that the police should ignore calls of distress it receives," said Katz. "It must act to encourage victims to file complaints in cases of violence before a tragedy occurs."

PM urged to fund vital drugs

By JUDY SEGEL

Dozens of psychologists serving in the health system yesterday sent a letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu urging him to find money for vital drugs - against cancer, AIDS, schizophrenia and diabetes - that are no longer provided by the health funds due to their severe deficits.

The psychologists, who also wrote to Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, declared that such patients have enough to worry about without wondering where to get the money to pay for

their medications.

"Every mother knows that when there's no money for most, one eats bread and margarine. Thus we call on you to reduce the expenditures on the 50th anniversary of independence and to spend the money instead on medications for the sick," they wrote.

In addition, Israel Cancer Association chairman Prof. Eliezer Robinson and director-general Miri Ziv wrote to every MK, calling on each of them to take action to restore the supply of vital medications to the seriously ill.

"There are new medications for breast, ovarian, lung, prostate and blood cancers that can offer hope to

patients. It's unthinkable that these will be denied them, and that the continuing disagreements between the finance and health ministers will be at the expense of the sick."

The two ICA officials also argued that the economic arrangements bill, due to be passed by the Knesset Finance Committee, will cause havoc in the health system by requiring patients to pay much more and reducing the basket of health services.

"This is the first time in Israel that the health system is causing unnecessary anxiety to cancer patients fighting for their lives. Cancer patients can't strike, but they're struggling for survival."

Court delays hearing on voluntary national service

By BATSEVA TSUR

The High Court of Justice yesterday decided to postpone for four months a discussion on whether men should be allowed to volunteer for national service if they are medically unfit to serve in the IDF.

The five-justice panel, headed by Deputy President Shlomo Levin, had convened to hear a petition presented a year ago by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel on behalf of two Arab women and a disabled Jewish man who wished to volunteer for national service and to enjoy the benefits accruing to such volunteers.

At an earlier hearing, some 10 months ago, the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry announced that it had changed its policy and would henceforth allow Arab women to do volunteer service. However, at the time, the state contended that the law spoke about

women volunteering and not men.

ACRI returned to the court yesterday to contend that equality of the sexes was one of the foundations of Israeli law and that the use of the female gender in the text of the law should not be interpreted as referring only to women, just as nurses are both female and male.

But Uzi Fogelman, head of the High Court division of the State Attorney's Office, said the subject of male volunteering is currently being discussed by an inter-ministerial committee, which is expected to present its findings in three months.

Levin asked the ACRI representatives whether they would agree to a delay in the proceedings, and it was agreed that the court would reconvene in four months - if, by then, the state does not take satisfactory action.

Parents: Education gets low grade

By ARYEH DEAR COHEN

Parents gave the state of education a relatively low grade, with the role played by the local authorities just barely passing, in a poll conducted recently by a researcher at the Hebrew University's School of Education.

The Quality of Education poll conducted by Dr. Gad Yair tested parents' evaluation of the schools in four main areas: the quality of educational service in the local authorities; the quality of educational services at the schools; teachers' performance; and the educational priorities set at the schools. They were asked to rate the service on a scale of 4 to 10, with 10 being the highest. (The margin of error in the "grades" below was plus/minus 0.1.)

The local authorities got the worst grade, averaging 6.57, or just over satisfactory, with parents particularly unhappy about registration procedures and educational initiatives. The only place where the local authorities got close to a 7 was in the quality of the educational staff.

The schools themselves and the principals scored a 7.27, but the

level of teaching only registered a 6.8.

The teachers themselves scored 6.89, leading Yair to comment: "Few teachers would be satisfied with pupils who get such grades." Parents felt that the teachers do not serve as good educational role models, are too conservative and demand too little from the pupils. They also do not pay enough attention to social developments within the classroom and fail to give the pupils enough personal attention, according to the poll.

The poll included 182 parents from Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Holon, Rishon LeZion, Bat Yam, Petah Tikva, Ramat Gan and Beersheba. Those participating were slightly above average both economically and in terms of level of education. Only secular parents participated, since observant parents did not respond to the poll. While only 20% of those given the poll responded to it, Yair said that the study reflected those parents who really are concerned about their children's education.

Yair said he hoped the poll would serve as a catalyst for a public discussion of the quality, or lack of it, of the Israeli education system.

BROOKLYN

Continued from Page 1

The soft-spoken Adler may have been the ideal man for this particular job. After growing up in Flatbush, where he attended Midwood High School, he went on to Cornell's School of Industrial and Labor Relations, and then went to law school at Columbia.

During the early '60s he worked for the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union and the Wholesale and Retail Department Store Workers. A stint in Washington and Los Angeles as an attorney for the National Labor Relations Board was no doubt invaluable to this week's efforts.

In 1968, he, Ruth and their eldest son, Jay, now 28, made aliyah. They have four other sons: Eitan, 27, Noam, 23, Haim, 22 and Shmuel, 13.

He first worked in the State Comptroller's Office before becoming an apprentice at the Labor Ministry, where he did research in the Labor Court, the place where he would eventually have his day in the limelight.

He worked as a private attorney for a few years and in 1977 became a judge in the Jerusalem

Regional Labor Court, before joining the national court in 1986. In between, Adler also found time to head the Jerusalem branch of the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel.

What's the trick to making opposites attract in a courtroom? "The key to it is to understand the problems facing the parties, and what they hope to achieve and what common ground there is between them, and to try to bring them to agreement on the issues where there is a dispute."

He subscribes to a school of negotiations developed at Harvard University which he says advocates "taking the personal aspect and feelings out of negotiations, and trying to understand each party's position, and find what each has in common, and to see what solution would be the least harmful, and the easiest to agree on where there are disputes."

"I think the other important element is to treat the parties involved with the respect due them, and to try to keep people calm and focused on the issues, and not get off on side-tracks or personal matters which are not really under dispute. It's a very difficult thing to do."

Adler, who is observant, said that he finds a great deal in Jewish

law and ethics to guide his work. "I think that there are certain values that are important for shaping the attitudes of people towards other people, towards helping the weak, the poor and the injured."

"And I think that in the Labor Court, which also has jurisdiction over national insurance, understanding people's problems is very important, and there is a certain element of that in the Prophets and in the attitude of the Bible towards less fortunate people."

Adler gets his own inspiration from people like Supreme Court Justice Aharon Barak, whom he says "most people feel is unusually brilliant and gifted, and I think he and other judges on the Supreme Court are very important."

He also named the late Labor Court judge Zvi Bar-Niv as someone from whom he has learned a great deal.

What's the secret to resolving conflicts among five boys? The formula sounds a great deal like what brought Peretz and Neeman together.

"I think there's a lot of similarity," says Adler, "because the key to it is to try to understand and show them a lot of love and understanding - and to know that they're young boys."

NEWS

in brief

Man killed in argument over honking

Pavel Ya'acovychuk, 28, was stabbed to death yesterday morning in Petah Tikva, in an argument about the honking of a car horn. The suspected assailant had pulled up to the curb to collect a worker, and honked for him several times. The honking angered Ya'acovychuk, who began arguing with the suspect. A scuffle broke out, during which Ya'acovychuk punched the suspect and broke his nose. The suspect then pulled out a pocketknife and stabbed Ya'acovychuk in the chest. The suspect, 24, a Ramat Gan restaurant owner, has no criminal record, police said. He is to be brought before a judge for a remand hearing today.

Misfired shell just misses motorist

A shell, apparently fired by a tank during a five-fire training exercise on the Golan, struck a road in a populated part of the region yesterday and exploded, narrowly missing a woman who was driving along a stretch of road between Moshav Aniam and Katzabiyeh. The woman was badly shaken, but otherwise unharmed and she was able to continue on her way after being given a glass of water by a member of the Golan regional council.

The training exercise was halted and Northern Command launched an investigation. The IDF Spokesman said an initial inquiry revealed that a shell accidentally fired during a training exercise had exploded in a populated area.

Girl, 8, killed in heater explosion

Eight-year-old Hayit Yusra was killed when a homemade kerosene and coal heater exploded in her family's home in the Galilee village of Tuba yesterday afternoon.

The girl's mother and two babies, aged two and one month, were treated for smoke inhalation by a Magen David Adom team. Police said the explosion, apparently caused by too much pressure inside the heater, sent a door flying which killed the girl.

Religious dispute delays burial

The body of a Jerusalem man who died of a heart attack on Sunday is being held in Shaare Zedek Hospital as his relatives quibble about whether he is Jewish or Moslem. The man was born a Moslem but converted to Judaism when he married a Jewish woman. His nationality was subsequently registered as "Jewish" on his Israeli ID card, his Jewish family members said.

Two years ago, after the couple began divorce proceedings, the man who was in his fifties, reportedly married a Moslem woman from Hebron who is unable to live in Jerusalem.

When he died, his relatives began arguing over whether he should be buried in a Jewish or Moslem cemetery. They appealed to the High Court of Justice to resolve the issue. The court yesterday convened in urgent session and asked the Interior Ministry to present it with information about the man's religious status by tomorrow.

Wiesenthal Center: Halt pensions to Nazi vets

The Simon Wiesenthal Center advised Germany yesterday that it could come up with more money for its Nazi war crimes unit by ceasing to pay pensions to veterans of Nazi units involved in killing civilians during World War II. The demand made by Efraim Zuroff, the center's Israel director, came a week after Zuroff handed German authorities a list of potential war crimes suspects believed to be living in Germany. Will Drensen, director of the Ludwigsburg Central Office for investigating Nazi crimes, had replied to Zuroff that his office lacked enough funds to probe all the cases.

Historian Leon Poliakov dies

Russian-born Leon Poliakov, a leading historian of totalitarian regimes and antisemitism who was an expert at the 1945 Nuremberg trials, died yesterday in France at the age of 87. Poliakov, whose family fled Russia within two years of the 1917 Bolshevik revolution and settled in Paris, was best known for his book, *20th-Century Totalitarianism* and a five-volume *History of Antisemitism*.

Yad Vashem honors Scottish Holocaust heroine

A Church of Scotland girl home matriarch who died in Auschwitz after helping Jewish children during the Holocaust was honored yesterday by Yad Vashem.

Jane Haining, who died in Auschwitz in 1944 at the age of 47, was awarded a medal and a place among the "Righteous Among the Nations." The award was presented to her sister, Agnes O'Brien of Londonderry, Northern Ireland, by Israeli Ambassador to Britain Moshe Raviv.

During the ceremony, Raviv paid tribute to Haining's work at the Church of Scotland's mission in Budapest, noting that the award "is in recognition of moral fortitude and physical courage."

German police sweep nets neo-Nazi material

Berlin police confiscated neo-Nazi propaganda and weapons during a sweep yesterday of 17 apartments belonging to people suspected of being members of two extreme-right groups.

Authorities had been alerted about the spread of stickers showing Nazi symbols and a skinhead with a swastika. Investigators found the stickers as well as reams of neo-Nazi propaganda, clubs and a sawed-off shotgun, police said. No charges had been filed, but the investigation is continuing, police said.

BARAK

Continued from Page 1

He said the party convention did not send out a strong message to the public - "We wanted to say one thing and instead we stuttered out something else and the end result is zero."

Yossi Beilin, who ran against Barak for the party leadership, came to his defense, saying the

fickleness toward Barak is unacceptable.

"It's become the latest fashion in Labor to attack him. People who only yesterday carried his picture and said, 'Only he can win' and 'He is perfect,' today are prepared to criticize him on everything," Beilin said.

Ori Orr said: "I don't get excited by it. These are the same people who criticized Shimon Peres and before him Yitzhak Rabin."

STRIKE

Continued from Page 1

The Treasury and Histadrut also agreed to start negotiating a renewal of wage agreements in the civil service. The talks are expected to begin today. The Treasury

will be represented by wage director Yossi Kucik, with the Histadrut represented by the chairman of the trade union section, Shlomo Shani.

"In another 10 to 14 days I very much hope we'll sign on this," Kucik said yesterday. "It will be good for the government and good for the workers."

SHARE

Continued from Page 2

Turkey rejects Israel's appointee as ambassador because of his alleged remarks about the Armenian issue a dozen years ago. Turkish President Suleiman Demirel criticizes Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's stand on the peace process.

It would seem only two occur-

rences could undermine the alliance. One would be if an anti-Israel government arises in Ankara. Yet this has already happened. The Islamic fundamentalist regime of Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan - himself a real antisemite - was powerless to subvert the ties, since they are so valued by the armed forces. The other - unlikely - option is if Arab states try to exact too high a price for Turkey's friendship with Israel.

Iran seizes the day

"Iran first, Islam second." President Mohammad Khatami made this election-winning slogan, and by the end of this week, it's going to look pretty hollow. Come to think of it, so will the alleged Middle East peace process.

Iran is hosting one of the most influential world Islamic conferences the region has seen for some time; one which may shift the entire political center of gravity in the Middle East.

The conference will fire three political salvos into enemy territory — one into US policy, one into the New Middle East of the Shimon Peres peace camp and one into the lap of Iran's own president and his suspiciously modern trends.

Our diplomatic sources give an increasingly clear impression of growing American frustration as its regional policy crumbles. What is not so clear is what Washington intends to do about it. Will it throw in the towel in despair and leave any initiatives in this wretched region to the next administration?

Yesterday, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright set off on her first tour of Africa, trawling for friends and influence among a new generation of African leaders — fresh woods, and pastures new.

Bad vintage

Between the obstructive Netanyahu government in Israel, the obstructive Arabs who deserted the anti-Saddam coalition (handing Russia a diplomatic coup) and the disastrous Qatar economic conference, there is not much of American construction left standing in the Middle East. It has not been a vintage year.

Behind the scenes, while the recent Iraq charade was playing itself out, Iranian diplomats were beavering around the Gulf, mending fences with their once-suspicious Arab neighbors. They were considerably more successful than the American diplomats armed with Band Aids who were trying to patch up the old Gulf War coalition and the old Rabin-Peres-Arafat peace front.

The message from Tehran will be clear. Islamic politics is back as a force to be reckoned with, and Iran is its leader.

It is a message that might make some of the more secular Moslem states attending uneasy. But most leaders will be caught up in the spirit of the moment — and that spirit says Satan is in retreat. Oil, like blood, is thicker than water, and Western influence has become distinctly watery.

Today, tomorrow and Thursday, three kings and 27 presidents will grace the biggest ever foreign gathering in Tehran since the 1979 revolution. The contrast with the feeble turnout in Doha, Qatar, last month will be noted — even Saudi Arabia and Egypt could not bring themselves to attend that funeral party for the New Middle East.

Wimp factors
Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah and Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa are expected to be in Tehran. Even Iraqi vice-president Taha Yassin Ramadan will be there — the highest-level visitor since the Iran-Iraq War.

The US looks more and more isolated with its Iran boycott, especially since the European Union has adopted a more pragmatic approach.

Former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger said recently that if Iran was an important power in the Gulf strategic equation during the rule of the Shah, surely it is no less important today.

Kissinger did add, however, that Iran has made not one conciliatory gesture toward Washington since the revolution. Despite other critical mutterings from advisers to the State Department, there is little sign of any change toward Iran. A shadow of the embassy hostage crisis and the Jimmy Carter "wimp factor" still hang heavy over the White House when Iran is on the agenda.

Much hope for a new beginning — most of it wishful thinking — has been pinned on President Khatami, since his surprising 69 percent rout of a conservative opponent in the May election.

"He's not moderate, he's modern," grumbled Kissinger. "Whatever he is, he isn't in charge. The mullahs are. In the real-power hierarchy, Khatami is probably no higher than a lame No. 3. 'Governments come and go, but our principles remain intact,'" responded Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to Khatami's "Iran first."

(The good-cop bad-cop routine is not unknown among clerics of the leading religions. It should not be forgotten that Khatami is a cleric as well as a president.)

Dune policy

Nothing spelled out the message more bluntly than an editorial in the daily Iran News after Khatami's election: "A nightmare awaits those foreign countries that assume the victory of President Khatami was a curtain-raising ceremony for resuming ties with Iran in order to dominate and usurp its wealth, as they did under the Shah's rule."

The *Economist* recently commented, "[In Iran] almost every organization has a shadow, and the shadow is often the weightier of the two."

Nonetheless, European policy toward Iran seems more suited to the times, while American policy, as with Cuba, seems to be run by some ostrich in the sand department.

The plain fact is that for all its overt hostility to Washington and Israel, Iranian foreign policy on the ground is not geared now to exporting revolution. In fact, its focus looks pretty much like everyone else's: national interests and economic development. That may be why all the Arab states are trooping off to Iran's party in Tehran after giving Goofy's party in Qatar a wide berth.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

Teheran's diplomatic comeback

Iran's hosting of this week's pan-Islamic summit symbolizes its regional comeback

By JOHN DANISZEWSKI

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran is rolling out the carpet — a \$1 million Persian, naturally — this week to welcome leaders of more than 50 Islamic nations to a summit that epitomizes both Tehran's expanding role on the world stage and the failure of US efforts to isolate the country.

The Eighth Islamic Summit, the biggest international gathering ever held in Iran, shows just how far this country, ruled by revolutionary turbaned clerics, has come in repairing links with many US friends in the region. Princes and emirs, sheiks and sultans, ministers and rulers are rubbing elbows at this week's summit, including senior officials of Egypt, Jordan and every other Arab country considered a member of the region's pro-American bloc.

About 30 heads of state and thousands of lesser officials are expected. The three-day meeting will be the international coming-out party for Iran's new president, Mohammad Khatami, who has said the conference demonstrates "the power and stability of Iran." One foreign diplomat said: "Now the Iranians can say to the Americans and to the West: 'Here we are. You wanted us isolated, but we are not isolated.'"

In May, Khatami, a moderate cleric, rolled to a stunning 2-1 election victory over his conservative opponent. Khatami's conciliatory moves to neighbors in the region since then have greased the way for a successful turnout.

Iran's Arab neighbors have historically distrusted non-Arab Iran, and when the fiery Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini threatened to export his 1979 popular revolution, Arab Gulf rulers understood that their heads were meant to be the first to roll.

From Lebanon to Egypt to Algeria, Iran has been accused of fomenting and financing Islamic unrest against conservative regimes for nearly two decades. Only last year, Saudi officials privately identified Iran as the chief suspect in a truck bombing that killed 19 US military personnel in the city of Dhahran.

But recently Iran has been trying to show a more benign face to its immediate neighbors, even while it still regularly blasts the United States as "the Great Arrogance" and remains firmly opposed to accepting Israel's place in the Middle East.

Arab leaders at the meeting want to see if Khatami has the oomph to carry out his moderate promises in the face of resistance from Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and a parliament dominated by the conservative candidate whom Khatami vanquished, Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri.

As president, Khatami ranks only second or third in the country's hierarchy of leaders, but his 20 million voters are a powerful potential engine for change.

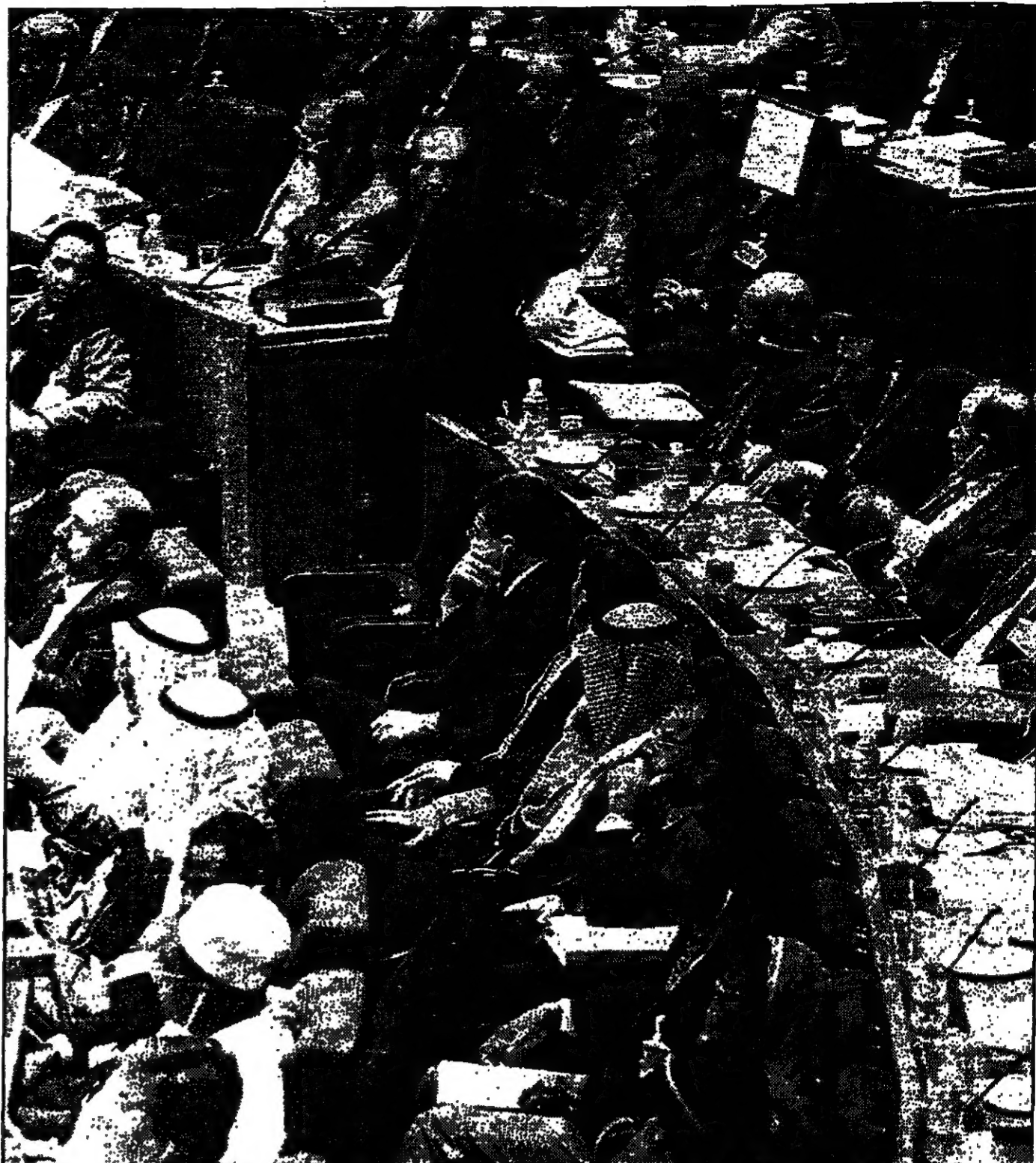
The conference takes place at a time of considerable ferment in Iran. The passions just beneath the surface flared last month when thousands of young Iranians danced exuberantly in the streets, openly defying religious strictures, to celebrate Iran's surprise success at securing a berth to soccer's 1998 World Cup.

A week earlier, one of the country's senior sages had allowed his followers to circulate his doubts about Khamenei's qualifications and style of leadership, setting off rioting in the seminary city of Qom.

One major question at this week's conference is whether Iran will tone down its harsh anti-American and anti-Israeli rhetoric and accommodate moderate Arab countries in order to achieve Islamic unity on a host of resolutions facing the participants.

"I certainly hope so," said one Saudi delegate who asked not to be identified. "I hope that Iranians will take this chance to modify their understanding of the world and live as part of it."

The United States and Israel have long accused Iran of sponsoring terrorism and of actively pursuing nuclear arms, long-range



A woman delivers information to delegates at a preparatory meeting for the Eighth Islamic Summit in Iran. The summit underscores how far the country, ruled by revolutionary-turbaned clerics, has come in repairing links with regional US allies. (AP)

missiles and other weapons of mass destruction. Since 1995, Iran has been under a US trade embargo, but the Clinton administration has singularly failed to win support from its European partners to join the United States in imposing sanctions.

Any delegate who cares to stray from the lavish new conference hall to the boutiques and shops of downtown Tehran will find them filled with American consumer goods. And there will be no absence of countries friendly to the United States at the summit.

Crown Prince Abdullah, heir to the Saudi throne, heads the "A list" of dignitaries. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak — who has frequently hinted that Iran is behind the Islamic militants who have wreaked havoc in Egypt — will be a no-show, but his foreign minister, Amr Moussa, leads Egypt's delegation.

In addition to members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, a grouping of states with large Moslem populations that was founded in 1969, various Islamic movements, such as the Palestinian extremist

group Hamas, are sending observers. Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan is also expected in Tehran, and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan is lending his stature to the meeting.

The summit's expected heavy turnout stands in embarrassing contrast to Washington's inability to drum up attendance by Arab leaders at a US-sponsored Middle East economic conference — also attended by Israel — in Qatar last month. That summit foundered over Arab anger at the breakdown in the Middle East peace process under Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and resentment at the perceived unwillingness of the United States to do much about it.

Officials and delegates here have strived to play down comparisons between the two meetings and are denying that participation is meant as a snub to the United States. "This conference has not been convened to send a message to anyone. It was convened to bring about closer ties among Islamic countries," said Mohammed Javad Zarif,

Iran's deputy foreign minister.

But while Khatami and his appointees stress a soothing message, there has been a triumphant tone ahead of the meeting in conservative newspapers, and billboards erected at several key intersections near the conference hall which display the stern faces of Khomeini and Khamenei and declare in English, "Islamic humiliates and downgrades the superpowers."

Iran has spent a reported \$80 million to host the event. The conference center, an enormous stainless-steel domed structure, was erected in a mind-boggling five months by a feverish anthill of 8,000 workers. Over the weekend, laborers were still finishing up the landscaping and had unrolled a one-ton, cream-colored Persian carpet in the entrance hall that is the size of half a football field.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference organizes a summit every three years, making this year's Tehran meeting only the eighth since 1969.

(Los Angeles Times)

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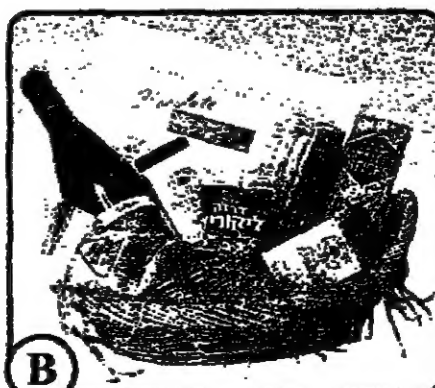
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Gore tries to jump-start climate summit

By BRIAN WILLIAMS

KYOTO (Reuters) — US Vice President Al Gore said yesterday his visit to a stalled global warming conference had set off momentum towards an agreement on cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Playing down suggestions that his visit was in danger of turning sour because he offered only "negotiating flexibility" rather than new proposals, Gore said critics missed his key point that the flexibility extended to all issues.

"There's no doubt in my mind that there has been momentum in the talks today and I think that most of the parties here will say that as well," Gore said. "In due time you will see exactly what it [flexibility] means," he said.

Asked if changes in the US position on the size of emission cut targets were included in the new "negotiating flexibility," he announced earlier in the day, Gore replied: "Well, of course. In our stated position as I repeated this morning, we have already committed to go below stabilization at 1990 levels in the year following 2012."

"And as I said in a much broader gauge, of a review of the overall treaty with all its provisions, our negotiators have new flexibility," he said.

The issues of the size of greenhouse gas cuts, with the US pro-

posal simply aiming to stabilize emissions at 1990 levels, and a commitment by developing nations have become two key subjects standing in the way of an agreement.

The European Union has proposed that emissions be cut by 15 percent from 1990 levels by 2010, although on Sunday evening British Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott suggested that the EU may agree to cuts of less than 15 percent.

"I will tell you that there has been some movement by some developing countries and I hope that that movement will translate into meaningful participation, but we'll have to wait and see," Gore said.

Gore swept into the conference on a rushed 19-hour visit to deliver a speech that was long on rhetoric but short on details as to any concrete US switch in climate policy.

Gore's visit, which began in pre-dawn cold and rain at Osaka airport, marked the start of head-to-head bargaining between some 160 countries intent on binding the world's rich nations to cuts in emissions of greenhouse gases.

Observers of the 10-day conference bickered over the significance of what White House aides termed a "key, late addition" to the speech Gore delivered during the morning.

Gore said that after last-minute

discussions with President Bill Clinton, the United States was ready to ease its formerly intransigent stance to get an agreement.

"I am instructing our delegation right now to show increased negotiating flexibility if a comprehensive plan can be put in place, with realistic targets and timetables, market mechanisms and the meaningful participation of key developing countries," he said.

Asked what he thought would be acceptable as meaningful participation, Gore replied, "Well, we'll know it when we see it."

Gore said he and Clinton were telephoning prime ministers and presidents around the world to explain and get their support for US plans.

Asked why his visit to Kyoto was so short, Gore said he felt his on-the-spot job had been done by getting momentum back into the meeting.

"I can [now] best influence the chances of success by staying on the telephone to the presidents and prime ministers who are issuing the instructions to their delegations [in Kyoto]," he said.

Referring to the political fight that could lie ahead if the Clinton administration agreed to a deal opposed by congress, Gore said, "I think it would be a real 'knock-out, drag out' debate that would be really good for the country. I think it would be high stakes and a lot of fun."



An unidentified delegate walks past a huge banner at the entrance to the Kyoto International Convention Hall yesterday. (AP)

German general suspended over neo-Nazi talk

By TONY CZUCZKA

BONN (AP) — An army general who headed the German military's leadership academy when it invited a neo-Nazi to give a lecture has been suspended from duty, the defense minister said yesterday.

In the attempt to defuse the German military's latest embarrassment, Defense Minister Volker Rühle also said the colonel who invited Manfred Roeder for the Jan. 24, 1995 lecture also is being disciplined.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl dismissed calls by opposition politicians to fire Rühle, saying he had

full trust in the defense minister.

A defense ministry spokesman said an investigation had revealed a large circle of officers at the Hamburg-based academy knew of Roeder's background as a convicted neo-Nazi and former lawyer.

Rühle said "the evidence so far indicates the invitation was not based on sympathy for this rightist radical at the leadership academy." Rather, he suggested at a news conference, Col. Norbert Schwarzer acted in ignorance when he invited Roeder.

But Rühle said he could not explain why 25 to 30 staff members who heard the lecture about

the forced resettlement of ethnic Germans in the former Soviet Union didn't report to superiors that the speaker was a known neo-Nazi.

Rühle said he had been unaware of the speech. "I condemn the speech ... in the most severe terms possible," he said, adding that the academy's reputation had been damaged.

He said Schwarzer will be recalled from duty in Albania, where he is on a mission to train local troops. The former head of the academy, Lt. Gen. Hartmut Olbocster, is being suspended as the military's chief of personnel at

his own request pending the probe.

Earlier, Rühle declared "it is unacceptable... that a person like Roeder was permitted to give a speech at the academy." The latest scandal linking extreme rightists to the military was revealed Saturday by *Der Spiegel* magazine.

Roeder was released from prison in 1990 after serving eight years of a 13-year sentence for arson attacks in 1980 in which two Vietnamese immigrants died. He was previously convicted in 1978 of distributing neo-Nazi literature and inciting hatred against foreigners.

Pro-Karadzic party rejects Bosnian-Serb election results

By RADUL RADOVANOVIC

PALE, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — A top aide to former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic claimed election fraud yesterday, saying his party would not accept results that denied the party a majority in the Bosnian Serb parliament.

Preliminary results of the November 22-23 balloting were released Sunday and showed the pro-Karadzic party losing control of parliament. The balloting appeared to leave no clear winner in the power struggle between Karadzic, who is under indictment for war crimes, and his rival, Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic.

The pro-Karadzic Serb Democratic Party won 24 seats, and the Serb nationalist Radicals — potential allies — 15, which left them short of a majority in the 83-seat parliament. Plavsic's newly formed party won 15 seats. A coalition dominated by Muslims and representing refugees took 16 seats, and another minor party from the federation, two seats.

Socialists won nine seats and a minor party won two, but it wasn't clear where either would line up in

any coalition-building.

"We are shocked by the announced results," Karadzic's aide, Momcilo Krajisnik, said. "There has been an obvious theft. The assembly cannot convene based on rigged election results." Krajisnik, the Serb member of Bosnia's joint presidency, said the Serb Democratic Party — founded and still run by Karadzic — would lodge a formal complaint asking that the results be invalidated.

Johan Verheyden, spokesman for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe said of vote-rigging: "That is something we can definitively deny." The OSCE has supervised all elections in Bosnia since the war ended in 1995.

In a further indication that Karadzic and his allies will resist Western efforts to reunite Bosnia, Krajisnik also said the Bosnian Serbs would block efforts to extend Western mandates to oversee Bosnian affairs.

Those efforts will come this week at an international conference in Bonn, one of two convened each year to review progress in implementing the Dayton peace accords.

Under the agreement, the OSCE

is to end its activities in the country next year.

The OSCE is seeking to extend the mandate, however, since progress in forging a peaceful and united Bosnia is lagging far behind the original Dayton timetable.

Krajisnik's delegation, which believes the OSCE rigged last month's election, wants the group out of Bosnia.

Also, Krajisnik said he would oppose any broadening of the mandate for the most senior international mediator in Bosnia, known as the High Representative.

"The Bonn conference is crucial for the future of Bosnia," Krajisnik said. "If they try to impose solutions on us — solutions which are outside the Dayton agreement — there will be no Bosnia. Bosnia has no future if solutions are imposed."

Krajisnik, who controls the eastern half of the Serbs' sub-state, and Plavsic, who controls the western, both will attend the international conference in Bonn this week. Krajisnik said the Bosnian Serb president was welcome to attend in her own right, but made it clear he believes he represents the Serb side at the gathering.

Germany charges Serb with murdering Bosnian Moslem

KARLSRUHE, Germany (AP)

Federal prosecutors filed charges yesterday against a 57-year-old Serb man they accuse of executing a Muslim on a garbage heap during the Bosnian war.

The defendant, who prosecutors would identify only as Maksim S., also is accused of abusing a Muslim woman, having her raped by colleagues and ordering her shot in the leg.

He has been charged with murder, rape, assault, kidnapping and being an accessory to genocide, prosecutors in Karlsruhe said.

Maksim S., who was arrested a year ago in Germany, is alleged to have been a member of a paramilitary group that carried out genocidal policies of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

The group terrorized Muslims through rape, assault and killings to oust them from areas of Bosnia that the Serbs claimed, prosecutors said.

Maksim S., who lived in Germany since 1969 but was in Bosnia during the war, is the fourth Serb arrested in Germany on war crimes charges.

The UN tribunal for former Yugoslavia in The Hague, Netherlands, took over the case of one them, Dusan Tadic. But it asked Germany to handle the other three cases.

German courts already have convicted the other two defendants.

Prosecutors said Maksim S. and fellow Serbs drove Muslims from the Kalesija region of Bosnia with clubs in May 1992. The defendant is accused of pulling a man from a bus load of departing Muslims, taking him to a garbage heap and shooting him to death.



Standing ovation

Human-rights campaigner Harry Wu receives a standing ovation following his address during the University of South Alabama graduation commencement in Mobile, Alabama. Wu spent 19 years as a political prisoner in China. (AP)

US launches new hearings on TWA crash

By PAT MILTON

BALTIMORE (AP) — The captain's steering column was broken. His seat was rapped to the wires of the cockpit. And his life vest was untouched in his pouch. Details like these were everywhere in newly released reports on the TWA Flight 800 explosion, but still no cause was cited.

The spark that ignited the center fuel tank of the jumbo jet just minutes after it left Kennedy International Airport for Paris remains as elusive as ever, nearly 17 months after the July 1996 disaster.

Beginning today, the National Transportation Safety Board takes its turn to show the world the fruits of the largest aviation accident investigation in history. The FBI bowed out two weeks ago after finding no evidence that a bomb or a missile downed the Boeing 747.

Chairman James Hall was scheduled to open five days of hearings aimed at gathering even more information than was contained in the thousands of pages of reports made public on Sunday. The NTSB released the docu-

ments to some of the more than 500 journalists given credentials to cover the testimony and distributed the reports on a CD-ROM and over its Internet site. (<http://www.ntsb.gov>)

Peter Goetz, a NTSB spokesman, said the investigation already has armed the government with information to make the skies safer.

For instance, simulated flight tests a year after the disaster that killed all 230 people on board have shown that the vapors in the nearly empty center fuel tank were likely ready to explode even before the plane left the ground.

Sophisticated tests on a plane subjected to nearly exactly the same conditions as TWA Flight 800 showed that the temperatures inside the tank would have been well over 38° C before the plane left the runway.

Tests done after the disaster show that portions of air-conditioning units located less than a foot from the bottom of the fuel tank reached a temperature of over 200° C, according to the documents released Sunday.

The documents and the hearings may help the NTSB pressure the Federal Aviation Administration to adopt potentially costly recom-

mendations to reduce temperatures in fuel tanks so they cannot explode.

During the July simulation, the agency found that temperatures in a nearly empty center fuel tank were as high as 62.8° C before the flight took off, following the exact route as Flight 800.

As it climbed in the cooler sky, the temperatures in the tank gradually declined but remained well above 38° C.

"This is the big issue," Goetz said. He predicted that two days of the hearings would concentrate on the volatility of vapors and fuel in the tanks.

Goetz said the NTSB was encouraged in the past week when the FAA agreed to take a closer look at recommendations made by the NTSB a year ago to reduce the volatility of vapors. The FAA has insisted that the problem can be resolved by eliminating any ignition source near the tank.

"Our most important product in the end is our safety recommendations," Goetz said. "Our job is to make recommendations so that these accidents don't happen again."

"There has been extraordinary attention on this investigation,

made more complex by the criminal aspect. This has put an enormous amount of pressure on this agency," Goetz said.

Investigators also found wires with insulation worn away in bundles of wiring leading through the plane's center fuel tank.

In some sections of the kilometers of wiring retrieved from the ocean, investigators found the insulation was corroded or cracked to the core, the documents stated.

One of the theories investigators are focusing on is that the catastrophic explosion in the plane's center fuel tank may have been sparked by a surge of high voltage electricity, which was transferred into the tank through damaged low voltage wiring to the tank's fuel measuring rods.

The measuring rods — which allow the pilot know the amount of fuel in the tank — carry a minuscule amount of electricity, incapable of igniting vapors on its own.

The FBI investigated the possibility that a bomb or a missile brought down the plane until two weeks ago, when it suspended its probe after finding no evidence to support a criminal theory.

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Russian TV – Oprah style

A free-wheeling talk show about sex pulls down the 'last barrier' in the former Soviet Union

By DANIEL WILLIAMS

MOSCOW – Early hints of Russia's sexual revolution first surfaced perhaps in the late 1970s, when a Soviet publication noted an increase in premarital sex among young people. Publication of such data must mean a sudden epidemic of raging Soviet hormones, foreign reports at the time conjectured.

Then came the 1980s, glasnost's openness and the appearance of skin magazines, movies that showed naked people, calls for sex education, contraceptives and worries about AIDS.

Now the '90s, and long kisses on the Moscow riverfront, short liaisons in Moscow bushes, impromptu stripping in bars, all-male gay underwater ballets and, finally, the indication that Russia's sexual revolution is crossing the ultimate threshold: talk. Talk, talk, talk.

Every week on TV, the venue for this breakthrough is a show called "About That," where for 40 minutes each Saturday night Russians discuss the once-undiscussable. Such as the secrets of what men and women like, May-December romances, homosexuality, virginity, masturbation, cross-dressing, whips – you name it. Such subjects are staples of American televised blab-a-thons, but Russians have never been noted for discussing their sex lives, much less for broadcasting their tastes to millions of viewers, not to mention their mothers.

"The last barrier is coming down," said Yelena Khanga, the show's host. "This is the culmination." The show is broadcast on NTV, a network owned by a prominent banker and media

magnate, Vladimir Gusinsky. NTV is the king of late-night titillation. Among its innovations is an amateur strip show called "Realm of the Senses" in which a man and woman compete in wacky stunts and the loser has to take off articles of clothing. Sometimes, they never get beyond shoes. The prize is computer equipment.

Besides the quest for ratings, producers of "About That" claim to have a social mission. "It's time to talk about it, because the sexual revolution is fast-moving," said Bolat Akunov, one of the show's producers.

Guests write or phone in about their problems or exploits and then get invited to the show by category. Their tales range from the commonplace to the bizarre. Women dream of tall, dark and handsome men on beaches in Spain; men, of tall, dark and beautiful women on beaches in Spain. A gay man wants to sleep with Brad Pitt and Tom Cruise. A soldier wants to make love to a woman while parachuting. ("I think the feelings would be very sharp – will the parachute open or not?") Sex experts give on-air advice.

A few touches are peculiar to Russia. Perhaps only in Moscow can someone have a fetish for the leather seats on its subway trains. Fantasizing about literature teachers is a big thing.

The show has received some adverse reviews. Critics complain of a circus atmosphere and too much giggling. "The tone of this show is all wrong," wrote a reviewer in *Obshaya Gazeta*. "Such a show, launched by ethically mature and professionally impeccable people, could be very timely. But those who make 'About That' are neither."

Traditional reserve about discussing sex is commonly attributed to the years of official Soviet puritanism. In the early years of Communist rule, the Bolsheviks cultivated an image of sexual freedom to contrast bourgeois propriety; an early Soviet ambassador to Sweden compared sex to drinking water – both were necessary biological functions. But such casualness quickly gave way to Stalinist rigidity.

Licentiousness was branded as a symptom of Western decadence.

Russians have never been noted for discussing their sex lives, much less for broadcasting their tastes to millions of viewers, not to mention their mothers.

The Great Soviet Encyclopedia wrote: "In this area, as in others, self-control is the essential component in the free expression of an individual." Soviet repression is far from the only factor in the strict Russian attitudes toward sex. Orthodox Christianity, like many other branches of Christendom, preached that sex sapped the spirit. In the mind of Leo Tolstoy, sex for pleasure was a goal "unworthy of man." Among some of the 19th-century intelligentsia, loose sexual talk was a sign of flabby morals.

In reaction to this 19th-century moralism, the early 20th century saw an explosion of sexual literature, in a period when censorship was lifted before the Bolshevik takeover. It is hard not to see parallels with the current rush of sexual freedom after the collapse of Communism.

In any case, there is wide agreement that in the new Russia, promiscuity has been on the rise. "The important thing here is that people's ideas about sex, techniques, contraceptives and about feelings associated with sex have expanded," said Anna Varga, a psychotherapist at the Moscow Center for Mental Health. "Different generations started talking about sex. A mother can now discuss these issues with her daughter, which in former times was impossible."

That is not to say the revolution has been without its casualties. Venereal disease has become rampant; there are 283 cases of syphilis per 100,000 people in Russia, a rate 40 times that of 1990 and about 100 times that in Western Europe. Physicians in Britain warned recently that an epidemic of syphilis in Russia is spreading into Europe.

AIDS is on the rise, too, although this has as much to do with the injection of illegal drugs as with unrestrained sex. The number of officially registered HIV cases in 1996 was 50 percent more than in the previous 10 years combined, with 60 percent of them said to be the result of drug users sharing needles.

In recognition of the disease problem, "About That" host Khanga frequently preaches safe sex.

The name of the show refers to the way Russians sometimes

refer to sex – simply as "that." In 1987, authors of a sex manual asked potential readers to nominate a title. They told the readers to put the words "About That" on the envelope when sending in their suggestions.

Khanga's background is remarkably exotic. Her father was Tanzanian and her mother the offspring of Americans who emigrated to Stalinist Russia in the 1930s. Her American grandmother was Jewish, her American grandfather black. In the 1980s, Khanga traced these wide-ranging roots in a book called *Soul to Soul*. After growing up in Russia, she worked as a journalist for the *Moscow News* in the 1980s and did some work for NTV, including commentary for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. She lives in New York, where she does stand-up Russian comedy, and files to Russia every two months to tape episodes of "About That." Khanga, who gives her age only as thirty-something, professes shyness on the subject of sex. "In my family, we were supposed to talk about educated things, about literature. We didn't talk about sex," she said.

She had some difficulty dealing with the insistence of the producers that she wear a blond wig on the show. "They think it looks classy. I hate it," she said. "On the other hand, when I wear it, it's like I'm someone else, which helps when I have to talk about sex."

Even producer Akunov, 32, said he would be reluctant to appear on his own program. "I think younger people are more likely," he said.

"I never talk about these things," (The Washington Post)

Up in smoke

A newly constructed 35-story tower, part of Indonesia's central bank, billows with smoke in Jakarta yesterday. The cause of the blaze was not immediately known. (AP)

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Knockin' on Dylan's door

By DOUG MEER

Washington power elite joined a tribute on Sunday (Bob Dylan, Charlton Heston, Lauren Bacall, opera soprano Jess Norman, and dancer Edward Villella at the Kennedy Center for the Arts).

President Bill Clinton, Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan and House (of Representatives) Speaker Newt Gingrich were among those who celebrated the artists in a black-tie affair.

The longest standing ovation went to Dylan, the influential pop musician of the era. Dylan appeared uncomfortable accepting the applause.

Actor Gregory Peck, a 1991 Kennedy Center honoree, told the audience that in his songs, "we hear the best of old American voices."

Bacall is best known for her sultry looks and sardonic glances in such movies as *To Have and Have Not*, in which she made her film debut in 1945 at age 19. She married her co-star from that film and for 11 years until his death.

Heston used his commanding features and presence to great

affect in films such as *Ben Hur*, for which he won an Academy Award in 1959.

For many people, Heston's face is the face of Moses, whom he portrayed in Cecil B. DeMille's biblical epic *The Ten Commandments* in 1956. Heston is well known in recent years as a defender of gun rights for the National Rifle Association.

Norman, raised in poverty in Augusta, Georgia, was praised by actor Sidney Poitier, a 1995 Kennedy Center honoree. "All I know is if God is a woman, then Jessye is her voice," he said. Despite her humble origins, Norman impressed music professors enough at Howard University in Washington to give her a four-year scholarship. In 1968, one year after graduation, she won the Munich International Music Competition.

After establishing her name in Europe, Norman made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera in New York in 1983, where she has remained a star performer.

Villella, who as a scrappy Italian-American kid growing up in New York had to withstand the ribbing of his peers, became the premier male star of New York City Ballet in the 1960s.

Actress Joanne Woodward, a 1992 Kennedy Center honoree, said that even as a child, Villella's talent was evident, and he became known "as the boy who could fly." Working under the direction of dance master George Balanchine, an 1978 Kennedy Center honoree, Villella was an energetic and very physical dancer. But in 1975, a hip injury forced Villella into retirement and a new role as teacher and director.

In 1986 he leaped at the chance to form the Miami City Ballet, which in a short time has become one of the leading dance companies in America.

(Reuters)



Clockwise from top left: Rocker Bob Dylan, actress Lauren Bacall, dancer Edward Villella, actor Charlton Heston and singer Jessye Norman - all honored for contributions to American culture (Reuters)

James Bond: A license to sell

By RICHARD LORANT

James Bond is everywhere in the US. There's 007 out-running bad guys on his BMW motorcycle, sipping a vodka martini (shaken, not stirred), making a call on his Ericsson cell phone.

What about his new movie? Products that have come roles in *Tomorrow Never Dies* are being heavily advertised in an all-out license to sell.

The strategy seems to reach new extremes with the Bond movie. Agreements with eight "promotional partners" got the film \$100 million worth of publicity before MGM had spent a dime on marketing.

The manufacturers are happy because they get to turn the suave, debonair man of intrigue into a human billboard, making it hard to tell where the advertising ends and the movie hype begins.

Explained MGM executive vice-president Karen Sortito, "You need to put products in movies to make them realistic. Why shouldn't we get something out of it? This is a guy who's been picking up gadgets and getting into cool cars for decades. Do they really want us to scratch out the logos?"

Indeed, placing products in Hollywood movies has evolved into a fine art since 1982, when an unpaid appearance by Reese's Pieces in *E.T.* was followed by an increase in sales of the candy.

Getting companies to pay for shots featuring their products helps studios defray marketing costs, which have skyrocketed to between \$15m. and \$50m. a movie.

"Everyone in the business is trying to figure out how to leverage their marketing budgets because it's becoming so expensive," said Al Lieberman, director of NYU's entertainment and media program.

Tomorrow Never Dies could use some leverage. It cost \$100m. to produce and is being released in Israel and elsewhere on December 19.

In addition to BMW, Ericsson and Omega, MGM has approved Bond ad campaigns for Smirnoff, Heineken, Avis, Visa, and L'Oréal.

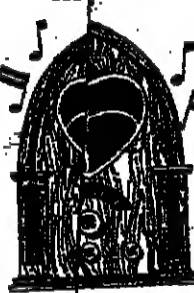
"James Bond uses his Ericsson for all his close calls," reads the kicker on one full-page newspaper ad that shows a movie still of Pierce Brosnan on a cellular phone. In a Smirnoff ad, twists of lemon floating in a vodka martini spell out "007."

On TV, the familiar Bond guitar riff plays over a chase scene from the movie as an announcer warns viewers not to try the stunt at home. The product: the BMW Cruiser motorcycle Bond is riding. BMW returned to the Bond franchise after successfully using the previous Bond film, *GoldenEye*, to help launch its Z3 Roadster. "About 10,000 pre-orders were attributable to the film," said Jack Piney, a company spokesman.

Like other partners, BMW did not pay the studio a placement fee but agreed to promote the movie in its ads. In all, MGM got \$48m. worth of movie promotions in the US and \$52m. overseas before launching its own multimillion-dollar "direct" campaign. (AP)

Maudlin odes to Princess Diana

In line



By Didi Briant

Talk about downer. Anyone who lists to this star-studded tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales, better have their hankies ready.

I would think from her general joie de vivre a pop, Diana would have preferred

DIANA/RIBUTE

Vari Artists

(IC)

LOUNGE-PALOOZA

Vari Artists

(Baratz)

TITAN

FREEDOM CONCERT

Vari Artists

(IC)

something like friend Elton John's "Crocote Rock" over these maudlin Mober Teresa odds to her legacy. In this compilation, the proceeds from which benefit the Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, celebrate

ates the negative.

Some of the selections are no-brainers - Eric Clapton milking "Tears in Heaven" for yet another victim, and Queen's "Who Wants to Live Forever?" Then there are songs that don't make an immediate connection. Bruce Springsteen's "Streets of Philadelphia" is included because of Diana's work with AIDS patients; get it? And Barbra Streisand's "Theme from A Star is Born" is included, well, because Barbra is sort of like royalty.

Ethereal strings dominate nearly every track, as if the angel Diana is looming overhead smiling down on the proceedings. There are some moving moments in spite of the forced pathos: Paul McCartney's "Little Willow," Neil Finn's (Crowded House) solo acoustic "Don't Dream, It's Over" and the Pretenders' "Hymn to Her" which sounds like it was especially made to order for the princess.

Diana groupies will eat this up and come back for seconds. Let's hope the health funds have a plentiful supply of powerful antidepressants at hand.

A MORE natural antidote to the Diana blues can be found in the grooves of *Lounge-a-palooza*, a tongue-firmly-in-cheek celebration of lounge music.

The liner notes explain that the concept "takes lounge music to its illogical conclusions," and the crazed compilers achieve this by teaming up alternative faves with soft-pop standards like Burt Bacharach's "This Guy's in Love



What would Diana think of this depressing disc?

with You" and Mel Tormé's "Zaz Turned Blue." Or they turn the situation on end with lounge lizards putting their touches on modern rock. The results range from amusing to hilarious.

The all-time lounge song "The Girl From Ipanema" is mutated into a Japanese big-band song; soul singer Jimmy Scott and Flea from Red Hot Chili Peppers slow down the Captain and Tennille hit "Love Will Keep Us Together" into a smoldering jazz cocktail.

But it all pales in comparison to

the deranged genius of teaming up lounge pros Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme with the Soundgarden sonic classic "Black Hole Sun." Hearing Lawrence croon behind perfect orchestra backup lines like "Boiling heat, summer stench, /neath the black, the sky looks dead" goes way beyond tongue-in-cheek and breaks clear through to the frontal lobes.

It's time to dust off the old leisure suits and fix some martinis. Make mine dry, shaken not stirred.

THE SUMMER'S politically correct cause among the rock elite was Tibet. No less than the Beastie Boys organized an alterna-star-studded series of concerts in New York and California to benefit the Milarepa Fund, which promotes awareness of the Tibetan Rights Movement. The acts featured on the three-disc *Tibetan Freedom Concert* represent the cream of Nineties rockers, and the highlights are many.

If you admit to jumping over Ravi Shankar on *The Concert for Bangladesh*, then you'll have no problem skipping the monks' opening and closing prayers on each disc and get straight to the rock 'n' roll.

And you won't be disappointed with a gorgeous "Fake Plastic Trees" by Radiohead, a catalytic guitar workout by Sonic Youth on "Wildflower" and a solo Noel Gallagher version of "Cast No Shadow" that is more powerful than most of the bands represented.

Other highlights include the chance to hear members of Pearl Jam and R.E.M. perform stripped-down acoustic numbers, although the Michael Stipe-Mike Mills "Electrolyte" could have done without the tacky drum machine.

But the project's ultimate accomplishment is to demonstrate how encompassing rock is in the late 1990s. Without a center any more, we have a situation where acts as diverse as Blur, Bjork and Beastie Boys can share a stage and an audience. It's a little like Woodstock without the mud.

A poet's requiem

Theater Review



By Naomi Doudai

Eleven years after her premature death from cancer Yona Wallach is still regarded as the most daring and defiant of contemporary Hebrew poets. But her influence does not end there. For the over-40s generation as much as the under-30s, she has never died. As a spiritual catalyst and fighting factor she lives on in them, in body as well as mind.

The fact that her wild, uninhibited

YONA YONA
Written and directed
by Hagit Raviv Nikolaivsky
Habimah's Blumenthal Theater

ed lifestyle was a realization of everything that she in her writings professed, makes for explosive stage material.

The play, a mosaic of the most turbulent emotional moments in Wallach's life, shows her in all her exasperating contradictions, from self-obsessed eccentricity, erotic ardor, creative egomania, to warmth and concern.

Facing death with Spartan

courage as she does throughout the play, it is also her own epitaph. But above all it is a requiem, the writer's act of homage to the unquenchable, poetic fervor of a great spirit. It is realized with an intensity that consumes the audience as it assigns it the role of chief mourner.

Although playing for some time (Best Play award, Acre Festival 1996) the production will now have a planned extended run at Habimah, but with casting changes.

The lead will now be played by a hitherto hardly known but immensely talented actress, Lani Shafar who takes over from Orna Katz, awarded Most Outstanding Actress Prize at Acre.

In a bewitching interpretation Shafar shows an unbelievable range of mood and temperament in depicting the poet described as "an angel of fire," and a *poete maudite*. Shafar's performance flows from towering passion to cool irony, mischievousness to incandescent rage, scalding derision to crippling remorse.

Playing opposite as her long-suffering though feisty mother (for which she also earned an Acre award) is Estie Kuskevitsky. Without resort to sentiment or pathos she projects this moving and genuinely pathetic role with understated sincerity.

Discreetly woven into the action is a compelling rock accompaniment featuring Wallach's lyrics. Shafar Bar adds another dimension to the drama with his vocal renderings that intersperse his role as her singer-lover.

Actr Brandauer strikes a chord between noble restraint and theatrical pathos

CONCERT ROUNDUP

The "cherub standing before God" achieved an impressive climax, emphasized by the well-sustained general pause, into IPO's performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with

IPO

Beethoven Symphony No. 9 and Schoenberg's *A Survivor from Warsaw* Jerusalem International Congress Center November 28

the Slovak Philharmonic Choir, conducted by Kurt Masur. The final movement was the crowning glory. The soloists (Klley Nasser, Amrie Markert, John A. and Wolf Matthias Friedrich) blended harmoniously, and the choir was fervent and well-enslaved, though not particularly enthusiastic.

Speed was achieved at the expense of melody in the second movement, and here melody substituted for melodiousness in the third, these disappointments were compensated for by the inspired rendition of the concluding "Ode to Joy." Schoenberg's intensely disturbing

Survivor from Warsaw may have been selected as an antidote to the redeeming joy of Beethoven's masterpiece. Austrian-born actor Klaus Maria Brandauer did his best to strike the almost impossible balance between noble restraint and theatrical pathos in his narration.

Ury Eppstein

TO COMMEMORATE the 90th anniversary of Oedon Partos's birth, two of his works and homages by two contemporary Israeli composers were performed by the Young Musicians' Group in the Youth at the Center series.

Partos's Rondo for violin and piano (Keren Tenenbaum and Michael Berkovsky), releases exuberant, dance-inspired energies that possibly draw

IN MEMORY OF PARTOS

The Young Musicians' Group
Mishkenot Sha'ananim
November 28

from the folklore of his native Hungary. In *Magnum* for flute (Eyal Ein-Habar) and string quartet (1959), Partos's European background is amalgamated with elements of local music traditions.

Yinam Lee's triptych for piano, clarinet (Ron Trachman, Shirley Brill) and string trio, though dedicated to Partos's memory, does not demonstrate any recognizable affinity to the composer's

style. Playfulness alternating with pensiveness, in well-proportioned doses, make it an agreeable piece to listen to.

Written not "in memory of" but "while remembering him," in the composer's own words, Zeev Steinberg's *Little String Quintet* displays contrasting moods and techniques. Ury Eppstein

ANTONIO Pappano led the IPO through an impressive rendition of Verdi's

OTELLO

By Giuseppe Verdi
IPO
Mann Auditorium
December 4

Otello. In this condensed drama, baritone Tom Fox was a towering Iago and soprano Susan Chilcutt was a pure Desdemona. But the tenor voice of Edmund Barham (Otello) is too sweet and not powerful enough for the role of the tender lover-turned-monster. Tenors Gwyn Hughes Jones (Cassio) and Sami Bechar (Rodrigo) and bass Gudjon Ocasson (Ludovico) were in a good form, while Susanna Poretsky, with her warm mezzo, made a tragic Emilia. Denis Sedov's pure bass (Montano) has developed very well. The IPO sounded great. Acclaimed to the visiting Slovak Philharmonic Choir.

Maxim Reider

YOSSI BANAI SINGS BRASSENS

Rebeca Crown Auditorium Jerusalem
December 6

number in the program. The "Gorilla" song is one of Branssens's most socially critical works.

But overall, this was an evening about love, the discovery of love, and the acknowledgment that there are no happy loves, as one of the ballads suggests. But in the long run, the effect is more reassuring because it suggests that there is nothing more beautiful than love, even if

it just the love of the moment. Accompanied by the superb Yossi Levi on guitar and Shmuel Magen on bass, Banai delivered 90 minutes of musical storytelling charm at its best.

Michael Aizenstadt

IT WAS so beautiful, it was almost unbearable. Yair Dalal, with his mysterious magical smile, takes you on a captivating journey where conventional con-

Yair Dalal and Ensemble Alol
Tel Aviv, Tzavta 2
November 29

cepts of time, space and freedom do not exist - as long as the music lasts. "Alol" is the Hebrew word for a whirling desert wind. The desert is the place where Dalal, an important figure in Israeli ethnic music, and his Ensemble Alol, draw their inspiration. A performer, arranger and composer, Dalal creates a rare but authentic mixture of Oriental and Western, of Jewish and Arab, of old and new.

Their music represents the rich variety of the Eastern tradition, such as "Silan," rooted in Iraqi Jewish liturgy, or "Adon Hashtot," which comes from Judeo-Arab tradition of the Golden Age of Spain, or "Trance," a piece, based on a Turkish folk tune with a klezmer

introduction. The ensemble members - Nurit Ofer (tabla, tambura, vocal), Eyal Faran (sitar, guitar), Eyal Selah (clarinet, bamboo flute), Avi Agababa (daf, darbuka), as well as Dalal himself (oud, violin, vocal) - are accomplished performers. Their improvisations are simply bewitching. The intimate setting of the concert is reminiscent of the Arabian Nights.

Maxim Reider

LEONARD BERNSTEIN JERUSALEM INTERNATIONAL COMPOSING COMPETITION

Jerusalem Theater
November 30 - December 3

Imaginative though some of the works were, none was really so outstanding to be granted first prize. The closing concert included two of Bernstein's works: a movement of the *Jeremiah* Symphony, with Mira Zakai, and episodes from *On the Town*.

Ury Eppstein

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Strategic friendship

As the Islamic Conference convenes today in Tehran, Turkey is for the first time hosting Israel's defense minister on an official, high-profile visit. Though the timing is likely coincidental, the two events illustrate the distance between the two poles within the Moslem world.

For all the attention that is understandably paid to Israel's relationship with its closest neighbors, such as the Palestinians, Jordan, and Egypt, the quiet partnership between Israel and Turkey is of equal importance. Though Turkey is a state with a Moslem majority, Israel and Turkey share a natural bond, based on common interests. Both countries are democracies in a region not friendly to democracy. Both are threatened by terrorism sponsored by neighboring dictatorships. And both countries see themselves culturally and economically tied to Europe and the West more than to the region in which they are located.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is right to echo the Turkish description of the military alliance with Israel as "a strategic relationship aimed at strengthening Turkey and Israel and it is not targeted against anyone." Even Jordan has defended the Turkish-Israeli relationship along these lines, saying it is not directed against the Arab world. In some ways, this formula is specious, because Israel and Turkey share a threat from radical Arab states and from Islamic fundamentalism. But it is an essentially fair description, since the relationship is a fundamentally defensive one, forged by democracies facing aggressive dictatorships.

For Israel, the challenge is to pay the closest possible attention to the care and feeding of this relationship. Mordechai's visit is an important step in this direction, and the momentum will likely be maintained by the visit of a senior Turkish official – possibly the deputy prime minister – to Israel in the near future, and a high-level trade conference in Turkey in early February.

Turkey and Israel, besides being natural military allies, are natural trade partners. Both sides have set a goal of increasing trade from the current \$300 million per year to \$1 billion per year. Of course, the military relationship is also economically significant, since Turkey is making major purchases of Israeli military equipment and technology.

Turkey has decided to double its order of Israeli Popeye missiles, in conjunction with a \$600 million program to upgrade Turkey's F-4 aircraft. Israel and Turkey are also pursuing agreements to jointly manufacture Popeye,

Delilah, and Arrow missiles, and possibly even Israel's state-of-the-art tank, the Merkava.

All of this will be symbolically reinforced by the much-anticipated tripartite US-Turkey-Israel military exercises in the Mediterranean next month. These exercises were recently postponed, in part, perhaps, because of the pending Tehran conference, where Turkey will attempt to water down a Syrian-sponsored resolution condemning the Turkish-Israeli military relationship.

With the many-faceted and warm Turkish-Israeli relationship deepening in an encouraging way, it is important that Israel not take this relationship for granted, and dedicate real effort to its development.

In cultural terms, the Turks do not regard strategic friendships as a temporary and mechanical intersection of interests, but more like a tight family bond. In such an arrangement, both sides are expected to not only unfailingly deliver on promises, but to extend themselves for each other.

The US had such a brotherly relationship with Turkey until 1965, when President Johnson changed US policy towards Cyprus. Relations have never fully recovered from what the Turks regarded as a betrayal, and since then they have been more correct than warm.

Israel today is enjoying the type of relationship with Turkey that the US had before the 1965 friction. Though there is nothing evident on the horizon that might shake this relationship, it is in the interests of both sides to work to maintain the existing high level of confidence.

Regarding this human side of the relationship, it is important that Israel quickly send an ambassador to Ankara who is acceptable to the Turks, even though the current nominee for the post, Tel Aviv University Prof. Ehud Toledano, would seem to be highly qualified. Fair or not, Toledano, whose specialty is Ottoman history, is perceived in Turkey as having tripped a hot wire on the Armenian issue. The government should pick a new envoy quickly, and should not subordinate the critical relationship with Turkey to the standard internal political wrangling over appointments.

Israel is not used to having good friends, particularly in the Moslem world, as the Tehran conference demonstrates. But being a good friend takes effort and practice. We are used to having to scrape our way through the world, to honing our toughness rather than conveying warmth. In the case of Turkey, we have a chance to cultivate a real friendship based on mutual respect, which we can only hope will be replicated more widely in the future.



A slap in the face

As has become common in Israel in recent years, the question of the amnesty for Israel's fiftieth anniversary will never be discussed objectively, but will be measured only on the "Aryeh Deri yardstick."

Certain politicians automatically switch off when Deri's name is mentioned, and this is certainly true of the amnesty issue – as well as of a list of other subjects with which his name has been linked, either willingly or unwillingly – so that it will be condemned in advance to an unseemly burial.

However, one important fact should be noted: senior criminal attorneys, who are not in any way associated with the Right, are all of the opinion that the amnesty question should be examined seriously. They are in confrontation with the state prosecutors, who oppose any discussion of the subject. If so, perhaps the idea is not just some private whim of a few politicians and their associates. Perhaps the question really is worth examining, without fear and prejudice.

Those opposing amnesty point to the unfortunate results of the amnesty granted after the Six Day War. The vast majority of the prisoners who were pardoned were required to their old ways and eventually found themselves behind bars again. In 1978, Israel's thirtieth anniversary, the then-attorney-general, and today's Supreme Court president, Aharon Barak, blocked Menachem Begin's initiative to enact a similar amnesty.

There are those who believe that Barak's objection is sufficient to prevent any further discussion of the current amnesty proposal. This is typical of a small group of jurists who have long believed that they alone are responsible for the formulation and preservation of the rule of law in Israel. Why, however, should the lessons of the 1967 amnesty not be learned so that this time amnesty is not granted to the wrong criminals?

An amnesty law could be designed to restrict its application to a defined category of criminals

and crimes. A pardon should not be granted to those convicted of violent or sexual offenses, to those convicted of harming children or the helpless, to traffic offenders and the like. It is possible to ensure that the victims of such criminals will not be harmed a second time by releasing those who are unworthy of forgiveness. It may be possible to pardon and

RUBY RIVLIN
The idea of the amnesty deserves serious public debate, but it would appear that there is scant chance of an objective discussion taking place

release prisoners, yet at the same time convert the rest of their sentences into suspended sentences, to become effective immediately if they return to their old ways; they can be placed under probation, as is the case for prisoners currently released after serving two-thirds of their term.

SOME people even propose enacting an amnesty which will only apply to a certain part of the punishment. This means that there will be no immediate amnesty and the streets will not be "flooded" with criminals, as those who oppose the amnesty concept fear. Instead, hope will be given to those prisoners who deserve it, a light at the end of the tunnel which will motivate them to begin the process of rehabilitation while they are still incarcerated.

Others propose an amnesty which will be individual rather than comprehensive, as granted by the president. According to this proposal – which takes the sting out of the claims regarding "trampling down the rule of law" – the same guidelines currently used by the release committees when dis-

cussing the release of prisoners who have completed two-thirds of their term will be used for the amnesty. A prisoner who wishes to benefit from the amnesty will have to convince the release committee (which will be responsible for the amnesty process) that he is indeed worthy of society's renewed trust, of a second chance.

The restrictions included in the proposals detailed above could also be added to this one, as a precondition which the prisoner must fulfill before his case can be discussed by the release committee at all. This would ensure that those who are not worthy will not be pardoned, while still providing a second chance for those who have slipped and sinned. An amnesty of this kind would not constitute an alternative appeal court, and therefore obviously does not trample the rule of law, as claimed by those who oppose the proposal.

The idea of the amnesty deserves serious public debate, but it would appear that there is scant chance of an objective discussion taking place, in which the opinions of the police and the court system could be heard, alongside the views of the prison services, as well as – heaven help us – the opinions of politicians and public figures.

It would appear that those people who watch with dismay as the line of public personalities being brought to trial with fanfare and then acquitted in court grow longer are apparently incapable of discussing the amnesty issue objectively, and insist on viewing it as a shady conspiracy instigated by corrupt politicians.

Nevertheless, it seems that the public has already begun to understand that these people – whose approach is symbolized above all by the previous attorney-general, Michael Ben-Yair – are leading the judicial system and Israeli justice down a blind alley. The amnesty idea, besides all of the above, is chiefly a public slap in the face for these people, whose crusade against all politicians in recent years has been routed in the courts.

The writer is a Likud MK.

Taking sides

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

(pensions paid out of the state budget). However, the solution should not be some hastily drafted, hand-written document, such as the one signed by Shohat and Peretz against the background of the last elections, and some compromise will now have to be found between the keeping of agree-

The Histadrut strike could have been avoided

ments and their reasonableness. But there were other underlying causes to the strike. There is no doubt that Amir Peretz – who will soon have to stand for election as Histadrut chairman, after having been handed the labor federation on a silver platter by Haim Ramon two years ago – gained in popularity from the militant position he adopted, not only amongst left-wing voters but amongst Likudniks and Shas voters as well. It is also clear that the major works committees, which stood solidly behind Peretz, were reportedly also those calling the cues, are not a bunch of pussy cats, just waiting to have their furs stroked.

At the same time, one ought not ignore the fact that as more and more employers prefer to hire workers on personal contracts or through manpower agents, as painful recovery plans are on the doorstep of a number of major employers such as Israel Aircraft Industry, and as the government's

ambitious privatization plans go into high gear, the position of organized labor and its negotiating power vis-a-vis management have been greatly weakened. The unions' struggle to stop the erosion in their status is thus based on concrete anxieties. That Neeman, ideologically, stands firmly on the side of the business and management, doesn't exactly help alleviate these anxieties.

NONE of this, however, justifies the Histadrut's initial decision to ignore the back-to-work orders issued by the labor courts. (The Histadrut only backed down in order to get Neeman back to the negotiating table.) Its contempt of court is extremely disturbing, especially if taken in conjunction with the attitude of the hardliners to the secular legal system. The last thing the judicial system needs these days is a powerful non-religious social organization like the Histadrut poo-pooing it.

That the strike caused immeasurable damage to the economy (NIS 200 million according to the Manufacturers' Association), in addition to causing much hardship and aggravation to ordinary citizens and (in the case of the closed airport) innocent foreigners, is beyond doubt. The question is whether the finance minister can honestly say that the workers would have gotten a fair deal in its absence. I am inclined to believe that had Neeman approached the conflict the way he has been dealing with the issue of religion and state in this country, the strike could have been avoided.

The writer is a political scientist.

The good light

WILLIAM BUCKLEY JR.

Latest month, the most recent Cuban refugee flight 58, and it is likely that, after decent interval, his special set of anti-Castro policies will with him.

Jorge Mas Canosa was an unyielding foe of Fidel Castro. Mas (his proper surname, under Spanish usage) went briefly to college in North Carolina, returned Cuba where his father was a winemaker, pitched into anti-Castro activity, fled the country in 1962 and went to work in Miami. He did blue-collar jobs, was a milkman, stevedore shoe salesman, and was an individual voice in the anti-Castro chorus of a swelling body of Gm Americans.

Some years later he was the head of telecommunications industry I head also of the Cuban American National Foundation. In that capacity he backed up conceivable anti-Castro more ever developed, though clearly he didn't know about it didn't back, one of the Keadys' ventures that called for destroying Castro by having on his cigars explode. By all accounts Mas was a prickly gentleman. He was imperious in manner, unrelenting in seeking what he felt. The obituarist for *The New York Times* wrote that he "repeatedly questioned the patriotism of those who disagreed with him and thinned in some cases to ruin thieves or careers."

The Washington Times modified this charge: "A separate investigation by the State Department, inspector general said there is no evidence he (Mas) arraigned reprisals against staffers who disagreed with him." But there's no arguing on the first go. Anyone who disagreed within on the imperative of using Castro was a defective part.

One recalls the description above almost exactly characterizes the behavior and manner of Charles de Gaulle after the fall of France in 1940. De Gaulle had only a single objective, which was the liberation of France. His manner was abrupt and his demands were as to cause

The decades-long campaign to unseat Castro fails, and Mas canosa dies

Winston Churchill to reflect that many people I crosses to bear, but that his moral burden was "the cross of Lorraine." It is arresting to wonder what would be the memoir of de Gaulle if he the Nazis, like Communists in Cuba, had died in power 38 years, causing large community of fatalistic shrink from de Gaulle as thumpingly old general who wants up boycott French commerce.

WITH the death of Mas Canosa, it is likely that Cuban Americans will edge over toward the position that bluster is paying off. Mas egged on the radio Martí enterprise, one of which makes television transmissions to Havana – a bid idea except that the jamming of radio waves, as far as we know, has succeeded in shielding even Cuban with a television set from any hard-line truth coming in from the United States. There is a maddening reciprocity in the whole scene: The decades-long campaign to unseat Castro fails, and Mas Canosa dies. But Mas' cause as strategic triumph, if actually a failure, Communism worldwide is dead. It stalks also in Havana, Hanoi and Pyongyang.

We have diplomatic relations with Hanoi, and commercial relations there is perfectly legal. The last architectural scaffolding of the anti-Castro side is gone. It is now simply a more powerful, salient cauldron of the Caribbean salient of a global threat to human freedom. The difference between him and the successors to H. Chi Minh is that 2 million Cuban Americans exercise an important political voice in two critical states, Florida and New Jersey.

The Cuban patriots encouraged (and egged on) by Jorge Mas Canosa) will need to acknowledge that the anti-Castro case cannot convincingly survive the end of the worldwide communist enterprise. It becomes, instead, a vendetta. Americans in general do well to realize Castro, and his ways, but the matter of dignity, John Quincy Adams was correct when he said that we are fields of it everywhere but custodians only of our own.

Jorge Mas Canosa did everything he could while alive to bring down Castro. Maybe now he can rest in peace.

(Universal Press Syndicate)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HISTADRUT SEDITION

Sir, – It seems strange to me that different people who practice "sedition" are treated in different ways. When Zo Artzeinu had a complaint against the government and showed it by blocking key roads, their leaders were arrested, tried and convicted of sedition.

When the Histadrut has a complaint against the government they also block roads. The even burn tires. Now they have struck the entire nation, causing much more damage than Zo Artzeinu did. But will their leaders be arrested and tried for sedition?

I guess it depends on whose ox is being gored.

Rehovot.

LARRY ISRAEL

HALF A LOAF

Sir, – Regarding "Partition Pragmatism" (November 30) by David Newman. Yes, half a loaf is better than none, but the Jewish yishuv's acceptance of the 1947 partition plan did not lead to "conflict resolution in a smaller area," which Newman implies may be achieved fifty years later. The PLO was established not after the 1967 Six-Day War to retake the West Bank (Judea and Samaria) but in 1964. Why should anyone assume that giving away territory (gained in defensive wars) to the PLO will lead to "conflict resolution"?

RACHEL SPRING

Ginot Shomron.

HONEST COINAGE

Sir, – There is more than the absence of labels to confuse the consumer, as suggested in the editorial "Needed: Consumer consciousness" (November 25). There is a lot of well-labelled but spurious pricing, particularly in some well-known chains, because we have a demonetized unit, the agora, still current in prices.

Labels bear prices which it is impossible to pay in cash. When everything has a price ending in 49 or 99 agorot, which is paid rounded up to the next whole unit, the consumer is unlikely to be the beneficiary.

If the price is NIS 9.99, the

cashier, if asked, will automatically tell you that the price is NIS 10, and that's what you actually pay. Thus the consumer is a double loser. Even if he makes multiple purchases and there is only one rounding-up or down of the bill, prices will in many cases be inflated by unseen marking-up within the unit "price."

Isn't it about time that traders had to price in honest coinage units.

J.J. CHERNS

Netanya.

GUERRILLA WAR

Sir, – In "Barak warns of 'guerrilla war' in the territories" (November 27), Labor leader Ehud Barak is quoted as saying "What is offered them [the Palestinians] now is inadequate and does not meet their demands. This can lead to scenes, compared to which the intifada would pale. This is because the Palestinians now control territory and can mount warfare from their areas. Moreover, they are armed and can use rifles instead of rocks. This is a whole different situation."

What unmitigated gall and guile! What you have said is all too true, Mr. Barak. But you conveniently refrained from noting who brought this situation about.

who is responsible for ceding precious land to the PLO, who has enabled them to arm themselves, and who persists in refusing to acknowledge that the Oslo Accords, falsely labeled a "peace process," were a colossal blunder.

If our refusal to knuckle under to their demands now will bring about something infinitely worse than the previous intifada, what will happen when they get even more territory and arm themselves even more and then find themselves confronted with our refusal to meet further demands?

MENACHEM BLOCH

Givatayim.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On December 9, 1932, *The Palestine Post* reported the opening of a new building of the Tiberias Hot Springs.

It also published a lengthy official account of the military operations of the six momentous days which led to the capture of Jerusalem on December 9, 1917.

There was also a detailed description of a gigantic task – the laying of the Iraq-Haifa oil pipeline.

50 years ago: On December 9, 1947, *The Palestine Post* reported that the British and Arab police were to be withdrawn from an area including Tel Aviv, Petah Tikva, Ramat Gan and Bnei Brak, with Jewish police taking over.

The week-old Arab disturbances took their heaviest toll of life: Fourteen Jews, three Arabs, a British constable and a British soldier were killed in various incidents. Severe fighting continued on the Jaffa-Tel Aviv border

and across Wadi Rushmeh in Haifa.

A Hagana high officer, Yehoshua Globberman, 42, of Yagur, was killed while he was driving his car in a convoy from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv. There were a few stabbing incidents in Jerusalem.

All weapons which beleaguered Nahariya was permitted to have were taken away by the police.

Alexander Zvielli

صكنا من الاصل

Torah with a feminist twist

A group of women came to Jerusalem recently to study Jewish texts from a different perspective, Ruth Mason reports

The students sit in small groups, bent over ancient texts, asking questions, exploring, discussing points of law. While they study, the rabbi wanders among them, offering assistance. The teacher sits in a corner preparing the next lesson. Engaged in an age-old process of studying Jewish texts, these students, teachers and rabbis are in fact pioneers. They are all women, and they are taking part in Bat Kol, a feminist *beit midrash*.

"We need a place where people can study Jewish texts from a feminist perspective because issues of gender are at the forefront of what society is dealing with now. If we don't recognize that in Judaism, we'll be cutting out half the Jewish community," said Rochelle Robins, who founded Bat Kol along with Sara Levine.

Ten years ago, Levine, then 23, was living at the Women's Peace Camp at Seneca, New York, site of the world's second largest nuclear storage depot. Levine grew up in a traditional Jewish home, keeping kosher and attending a "Conservadox" synagogue on Shabbat (but going to Hashomer Hatzair meetings on Friday night).

"At Seneca," said Levine, "I was exposed to a lot of leftist anti-Semitism. So I started wearing a kippa." She kept it on when she went back to her home in Ithaca. "Women would come up to me and say, 'I was Jewish once,' or 'I didn't know a woman could wear a kippa.' I began to understand how many alienated Jewish women there were out there. Most had left Judaism because they felt there was no room for them. I wanted to create a space for those women where they could be Jews and feminists at the same time."

Levine decided to go to rabbinical school, where she met fellow student Robins, daughter of a Reform rabbi from San Jose, California. "I always knew I wanted to start a politically minded organization that was Jewish and focused on women," said Robins. "I also wanted to create the school I sought but couldn't find."

Together they launched their first program in Jerusalem this year — a six-week *beit midrash* that attracted 15 women from the US and Israel.

"It is rich to be here," said Dr. Marcy Epstein, a lecturer in women's studies and English liter-

ature at the University of Michigan. Epstein grew up in Deal, New Jersey, at a time when girls were just beginning to be allowed to read *hagharot* in synagogue. "I didn't learn these wonderful things that might have enriched my life," she said. At Bat Kol, she added, "I don't have to divide myself as a Jew and as a woman. It's invigorating."

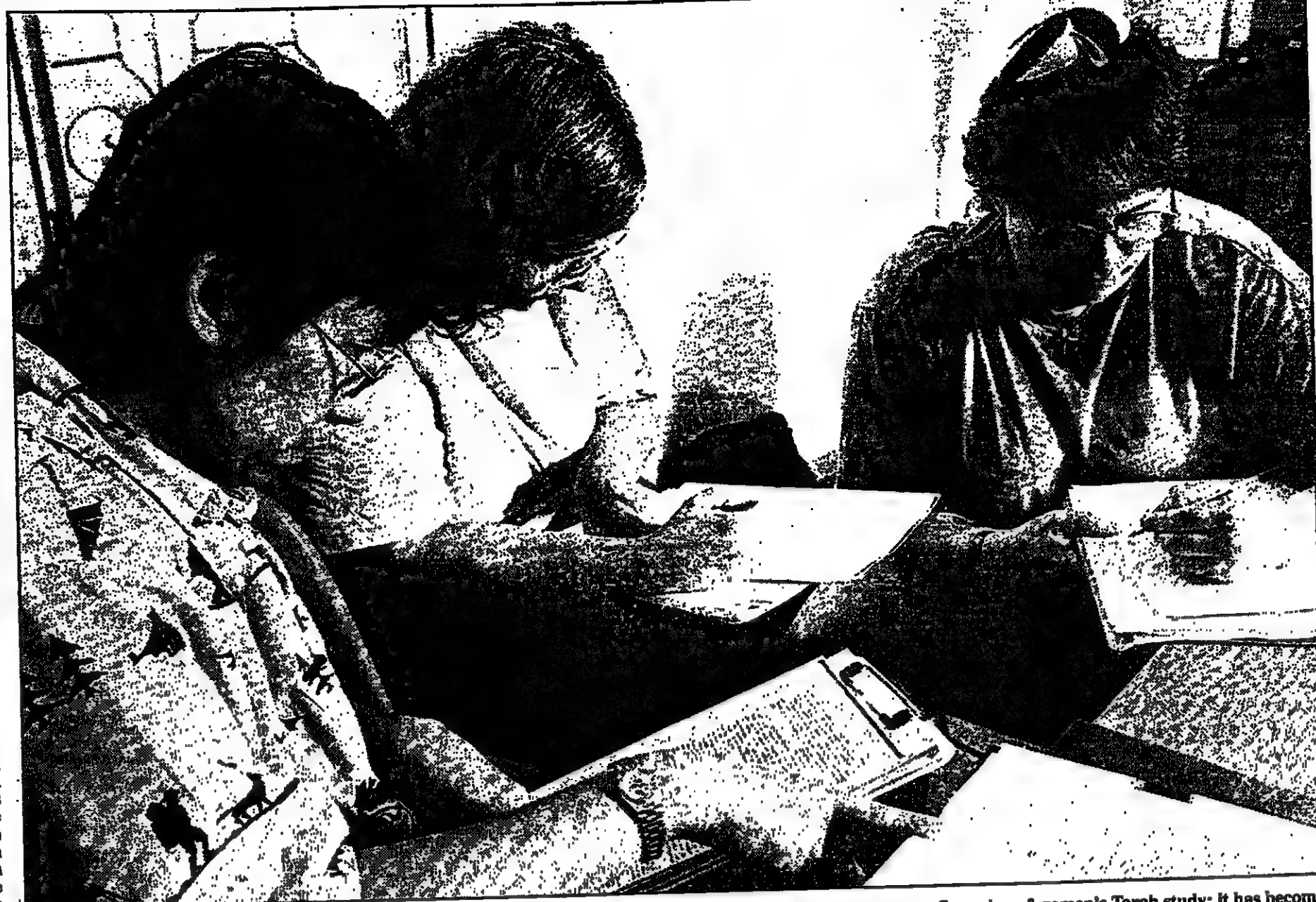
Bat Kol organizers launched their *beit midrash* in Israel because they have a strong attachment to the country and they wanted to make a contribution toward religious pluralism here. "Many Jews feel alienated from Israel altogether, with the ever-growing hostility toward Judaism which is not Orthodox," said Levine. "We had women on the program who would not come to Israel were it not for this school. We are trying to create another place where women who don't fit the Orthodox profile can come and be Jewish in Israel."

Levine and Robins assembled an array of notable women teachers from Israel and the US, including Dr. Rachel Adler, Dr. Susannah Heschel, Dr. Debbie Weisman (head of Jerusalem's Kerem Institute, where the *beit midrash* is housed), Rabbi Einat Ramon, the first Israeli woman to have been ordained as a rabbi, and Leah Shaked, the first woman to sit on a religious council. The days were divided into classes taught by the teachers on particular texts, Hebrew study, expressive arts workshops, and volunteering in social change organizations.

"Part of a feminist framework is to give at least as much as we take," said Robins. "We felt it was important for our students to learn about organizations in Israel working for social change." Shatil, the technical support arm of the New Israel Fund, helped provide placements.

"There are many feminist perspectives of Judaism," said Levine. "We aren't trying to offer answers, just to ask questions and come up with a variety of feminist readings. For that reason, we invited teachers from secular, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, and Orthodox backgrounds. That way, different types of feminism get put on the table and we can come together to make Judaism belong to all Jews."

What exactly is a feminist perspective on Jewish text?



Students hard at work at a feminist 'beit midrash.' Says Leah Shaked: "This is my life's dream. There has been a flowering of women's Torah study; it has become the norm, and it makes me happy."

According to the organizers, it means looking not only at what the text means and what the halachic implications are, but asking additional questions: What can we learn about gender from the text? What role does the text play in our lives as women? How do we relate to a text written by men that is about women?

"We also examine some of the larger issues that emerge from a gender perspective — social construct, hierarchy, role definition, ownership, sexuality," said Levine.

"Our classes do not just gloss over parts of the text that are difficult from this perspective; we really grapple with them," she added.

"When I was at Matan [a women's learning center in Jerusalem], the education was excellent. But when a difficult

issue arose and the women in the class would comment, 'That's terrible' or 'That's not fair,' we wouldn't take any time to talk about it. We just continued reading the text. What we have tried to do is create a forum where we can question what we read and make choices from an informed perspective."

"We are not taking ourselves out of the tradition but are injecting ourselves into it," said Carol Salem, a lawyer from Salt Lake City who was educated at an Orthodox yeshiva in Brooklyn. Salem said it was years before she realized how uncritical her education had been.

"We have a great need for this type of Torah study," she contended. "We want to use the tools we have as women to make the text come alive to us in ways that empower us," said Terry Winant, a university philosophy teacher from Fresno, California, who was raised as a Reform Jew.

Winant said she was attracted to Bat Kol because she has been trying to connect her feminist intellectual world with her Judaism. "We're a laboratory of what happens when we invade this space that has been male," she went on. "We want to have consciousness-raising conversations with the text."

"This is my life's dream," said Shaked, who taught Talmud in the program's fourth week. "There has been a flowering of women's Torah study; it has become the norm, and that makes me happy. What's special here is that there is a feminist perspective, which is rare but important. And every evening there is an attempt to integrate what was learned through the arts. It's very special."

The first week of the program focused on feminist theology; the second on sexuality; the third on social action; and the fourth on land and nationality.

Participants also spent much time on the Talmudic discussion of rape and its implications concerning women's sexuality and role in society.

The atmosphere at the *beit midrash* was serious and intense. "At other *batei midrash* you can

sometimes walk in and hear people talking about the news or their lives," said Levine. "Here, we can't even convince them to take a coffee break." "When we were studying talmudic texts on rape, one woman stormed out," said Levine. "What's going on in this room is a struggle. We have a

participants grew up steeped in Jewish study, while others had little experience with it. Somehow, the mix worked. The exchange of ideas was dynamic, highly intellectual and respectful throughout. "We value and honor our differences," said Salem. Robins and Levine said they

"Usually, people who are very knowledgeable about Jewish texts don't have a feminist outlook, and usually feminists don't have much knowledge of Jewish texts. If you can bring the two together, then something creative and interesting can happen"

—Debbie Weisman

lover relationship with the text. We get really furious at it sometimes, but we also recognize its beauty."

The participants came from secular, traditional, and "Jewish renewal" backgrounds. No Orthodox women signed up, but Robins and Levine are hoping to attract them in the future. Some

have had an enthusiastic response from Israelis.

Said Weisman: "Usually, people who are very knowledgeable about Jewish texts don't have a feminist outlook, and usually feminists don't have much knowledge of Jewish texts. If you can bring the two together, then something creative and interesting can happen."

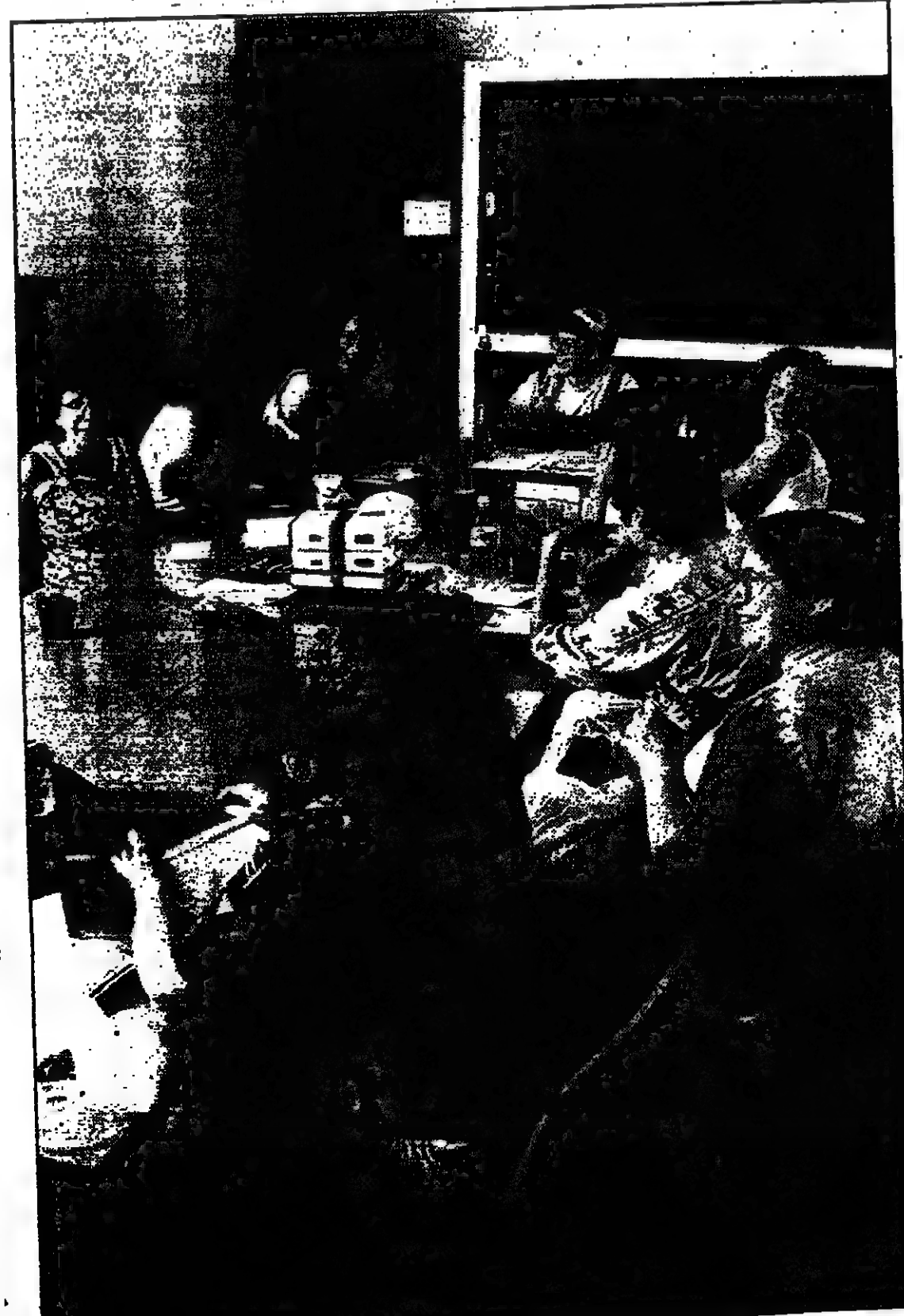
While stressing that she is not familiar with Bat Kol's work, Chana Henkin, dean of Nishmat, the Jerusalem Center for Higher Torah Study for Women, said she welcomes the study of Jewish texts by any group of Jews. "I also think there is such a thing as a woman's perspective," said Henkin. "A group of women studying a text will find things that men won't."

"Is what they're doing 'legitimate'?" she asks rhetorically. "The texts belong to every Jew. I give them my blessing."

Rabbi Danny Landes, director of the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, in which men and women study together, welcomes the idea of a feminist *beit midrash*. "I think this is a fine, legitimate thing to do," he said.

"But as a *beit midrash* with a particular focus, they will face several challenges: one, making sure the creativity goes hand in hand with deep scholarship; two, they will face the same challenge that male *batei midrash* face — the limitations of having only one gender."

"And three, an ideological *beit midrash*, whether it's Shas or National Religious, results in a certain conformity. Torah study should explode ideology and conformity," said Landes.



"We are not taking ourselves out of the tradition but are interjecting ourselves into it," says Carol Salem, a student at Bat Kol.

THE JERUSALEM POST
Israel - from every point of view

THE JERUSALEM POST
"FORSAKE ME NOT"

It doesn't take 20 donations to give them warmth.

Yours will do it.

Once again The Jerusalem Post Forsake Me Not fund for the needy elderly is organizing its winter campaign. Funds are desperately needed for heaters, heating oil, blankets, pyjamas, mattresses and warm clothing.

Strike a light for the needy elderly

Contributions can be mailed directly to The Jerusalem Post, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem 91000, Israel.

A striking situation

I regret to inform you that this column has been cancelled. I'm really sorry. I truly wish that I could sit down and write something profound and meaningful yet charming and entertaining. But it isn't going to happen. For such a column to get written, I would have to enjoy the luxury of sitting down at the computer, concentrating on my work for more than half a minute at a stretch, and forming coherent thoughts.

But for this to happen, my son would have to be comfortably taken care of in his day-care center. And the almighty Histadrut has decided, that this, my designated column-writing day, should be sacrificed to the workers' struggle for justice.

In an odd way, I feel like this is an important moment in my initiation as an Israeli woman. Judging from how frequently day-care and educational institutions go on strike in this country, I know these are the first of many such days.

Back in the "old country," it's snowstorms that keep the children stuck at home. Here, it's strikes. And many of the strikes are called at the last minute, which means that my Dear Husband already has a day scheduled full of meetings and appointments that can't be canceled and therefore is not

worked, underpaid, and stressed-out members of the work force—the working mothers?

I suppose the Histadrut's rationale is that my poor performance in work due to the fact that I have to deal with my child will upset my private-sector employer, who will in turn pressure the government to give the Histadrut what it wants.

This logic seems a bit flawed. First of all, I don't see my employers losing sleep over the fact that my kid can't go to kindergarten. Rather justifiably, they tell me, deal with your baby and your job at the same time or, if you can't handle it, shell out the money for a sitter or take a vacation day.

Either way, it seems as if it is the worker—me—who is getting squeezed by the strike, not my employer.

This is not logic Histadrut chairman Amir Peretz accepts. He must head Ofra Friedman dared to suggest it, and Peretz unceremoniously kicked her off the Histadrut central committee. What really bothers me about the situation is not the disruption of my work schedule—I'm a grown-up, I can take it. What's upsetting is seeing my one-and-a-half-year-old sitting by the door, waving bye-bye, ready to go to his WIZO nursery to play. He doesn't understand what's going

My 18-month-old son doesn't understand what's going on, no matter how many times I try to explain Karl Marx to him

pitching in as he should (toddlers underfoot can make it hard to write a column but even harder to hold a business meeting.)

Don't get me wrong. I enjoy spending time with my son—building with blocks, driving cars down the Fisher-Price garage ramp countless times, and reviewing which animals make which noises. It's fun. It's just that I prefer to choose when I do this and when I do my work, and I don't appreciate these decisions being dictated.

I think of myself as a Jewish liberal, so I try to stay sympathetic to the anger of the Histadrut at the Treasury's decision to renege on the pre-election pension agreement and Treasury Minister Yashiv Neeman's nasty remarks on TV (these are the reasons they're striking, aren't they? An amazing number of people striking seem to have no clue as to why they are staying home.)

But I'm having a lot of trouble understanding the decision to include the Na'amat and WIZO day-care centers in the strike. Can this move really punish the Treasury in a harsher way than it is punishing the most over-

on, no matter how many times I try to explain Karl Marx to him. I even tried showing him Peretz explaining the strike on the news, but he didn't listen; he just laughed at Peretz's funny-looking mustache. He's a baby, and his routine is sacred and necessary for his physical and emotional well-being and sense of security (my son, that is). This political struggle, however noble, is not important enough to turn his little world upside-down. Our toddlers and preschoolers don't deserve to be dumped on reluctant relatives or cared for by patchwork babysitters or by parents stressed out over missing work.

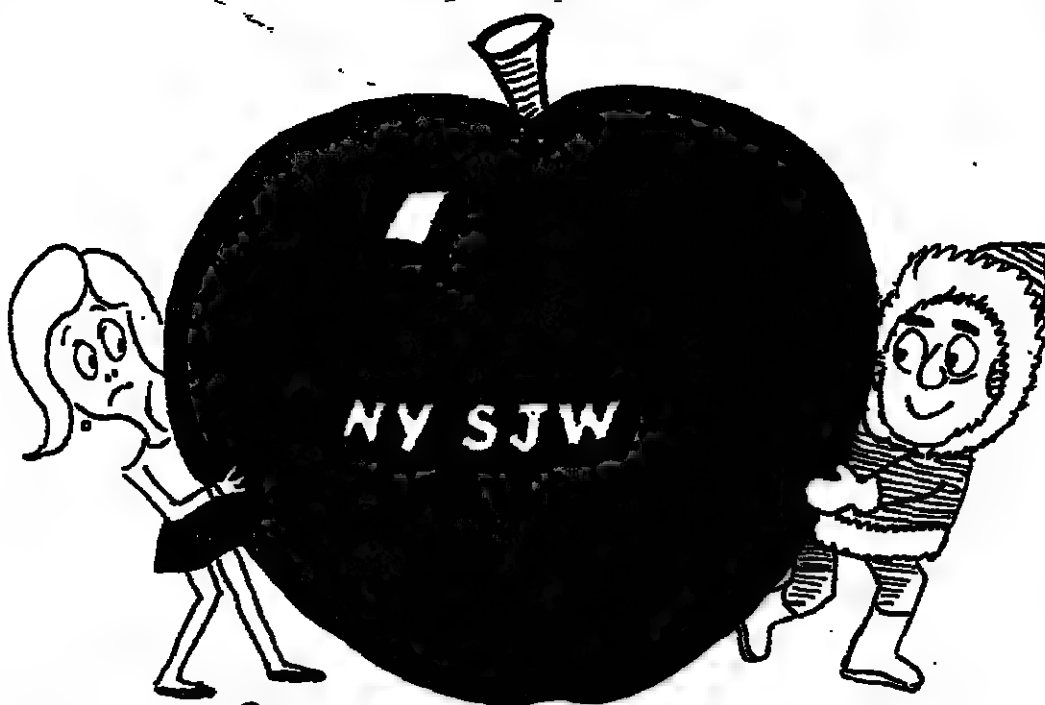
The strike will have probably ended by the time this is published. But the next time, Mr. Peretz, you decide to lead a struggle fighting for the "little people," try thinking about the really, really little people, the tiny people who haven't done anything to deserve being forced to pay the price of this strike.

By the way, Jerusalem Post readers don't deserve to be penalized, either. Which is why it looks like I've ended up writing a column after all.

Home Front



Allison Kaplan Sommer



MEIR RONEN ©97

Breaking the ice

Having exhausted his options in Fairbanks, a bachelor goes to the Big Apple to find a Jewish wife to bring home to Alaska, Anjetta McQueen reports

What's a nice Jewish guy from Alaska doing in New York City? Dating as fast as he can.

Jay Ramras, a talkative green-eyed bachelor from Fairbanks, settled into a sublet apartment two months ago and started networking for single Jewish women.

Since then, he's had 50 dates (more than he'd ever had in his life) and is the subject of a weekly update in *New York* magazine. "Nice Jewish Guy Seeks Hot-blooded Jewish Girl for Love in Colder Climes."

"They're calling me the busiest bachelor in Gotham," Ramras said. The 33-year-old restaurateur claims there were just two single Jewish women in his interior Alaska town of 33,000. In Alaska, single men outnumber single women five to three.

"The only opportunity I would have there is to fall in love with a woman because she's Jewish," Ramras said. "I want to fall in love with a wonderful woman who happens to be Jewish."

After trying singles services and importing dates from the Lower 48, Ramras decided to enter his last frontier: New York—home of nearly one-third of the nation's Jewish population.

But Fairbanks can be a tough sell for a New York City woman. "I'm an urban guy," Ramras insists, intent on debunking the myth of the Grizzly Adams bachelor looking for a mate to gut his fish. "Fairbanks is not some Siberian leper colony."

Still, Fairbanks's high temperature last week was nearly 0 Fahrenheit (-18 Celsius). The sun rose at 10:21 a.m., set at 3:01

p.m.—and the days are only getting shorter.

"That's quite a sacrifice, to move to a place as far away and as different as Alaska," said Hillary Black, a Manhattan book editor who is 26, Jewish and single. "I find it hard to believe that a modern woman would just pick up and move with someone she doesn't know that well for the sake of getting married."

Ramras, who started a chicken-wing stand at age 20 and now owns four restaurants, said his quest began when he turned 30. It was time to settle down with a nice Jewish girl.

He flew to Seattle (which has a 30,000-strong Jewish community)

Ramras is intent on debunking the myth of the Grizzly Adams bachelor looking for a mate to gut his fish

30 times, bought ad space in the *Alaska Men* singles magazine and paid \$5,500 to a Los Angeles-based Jewish dating service, which yielded a short-lived relationship with an employee of the company. Ramras even imported dates from as far away as Texas and Florida.

His father, a Brooklyn native who moved to Alaska 31 years ago, told him to find a Gentile. But Ramras, who dates the effort to build a Fairbanks synagogue in memory of his mother, calls

Judaism "the bedrock of my soul." He said that "Marrying within my faith is too important to me." So he went to New York, with its 1.9 million Jews. "Statistics brought me here," he concedes, "and LA is too weird."

Ramras is determined to live in his native state. He likes his two-bedroom downtown condo and his lakeside cabin where he goes snowmobiling.

Emily Rosenberg of Brooklyn—36, single and Jewish—said she knows people who have visited Alaska and liked it. But she wouldn't go. "I guess I am too much of a New Yorker." Her friend Elana Cook, however, might consider the trek.

"Why not? Life's an adventure," said Cook, 29, and also Jewish. "Whether it's 5 degrees in Fairbanks or 75 in Miami, if you're alone your bed is just as cold."

None of the dates have gone on the record, but Ramras gets high marks from a high school chum.

"He's a great guy, very witty, extremely intelligent," said Rachel Ring, 34, of Anchorage, who is single but not Jewish. Ramras wasn't exactly a ladies' man in high school, she said, but he was "always quite the businessman."

Simone Antunovic, a waitress at Baci, a Manhattan nightclub frequented by Ramras, says "he's a real gentleman, a bit of a chatterbox. I thought he was a womanizer or something until I saw his story on the 10 o'clock news," the 22-year-old Antunovic said, who is not in the running because she's not Jewish.

"His dates have a good time, though," she said. "They're usually the last ones in here." (AP)

GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Not a good shot

Model-cum-actress Orly Levy received prominent coverage in the weekend papers, but at least one newspaper which featured the attractive daughter of Foreign Minister David Levy showed poor taste in its photo choice. The cool-eyed model, soon to be seen in the television series *Codebreaker*, was shown wielding a pistol. Some editor was sorely lacking in sensitivity in publishing the picture the same week that model Anat Elimelech died of gun wounds in a murder-suicide tragedy.

NOTWITHSTANDING the fact that he is confined to a wheelchair, Abie Nathan, who actively advo-

discussion after lunch, Ludmilla Tichon invited spouses to watch a series of dance recitals by talented immigrant youngsters. She told them they deserved the entertainment. As the spouse of a public figure, Tichon observed: "We share the work but not the glory."

GOVERNMENT ministries were non-operational during the big strike. On the first day, Sammy Tzvet, the foreign ministry's chief of protocol, happened to be in his department when the phone rang. He could have ignored it, but he didn't. The caller wanted the kind of information usually supplied by a secretary. Tzvet apologized that due to the strike, there were no



Dalia Rabin Pelosoff in the limelight, with client Amir Peretz (Ariel Jerolimski)

ced peace in the Middle East long before the politicians sat around the negotiating tables, made his way to Rabin Square in Tel Aviv last week to join the regular Friday peacekeepers who gather there each week to pledge their commitment to Yitzhak Rabin's dream. Leah Rabin was on hand to wish Nathan well.

LEAH Rabin and her son Yuval are always in the news, but her daughter Dalia Rabin Pelosoff usually remained more in the



Honorary Ph.D. to former president Yitzhak Navon (David Rubinger)

background until the advent of the Histadrut strike. As legal adviser to the Histadrut, she had no choice but to step into the limelight, and she looks as if she likes it.

AT A luncheon for the diplomatic corps hosted by Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon and his wife, Ludmilla, to mark the 50th anniversary of the UN resolution on partition, Knesset reporters reluctantly forfeited the main course because of a 2 p.m. meeting of the Labor faction.

However, Labor MKs Yossi Beilin and Ophir Pines seemed in no great hurry to leave. Perhaps they were raised on the Napoleonic maxim that an army marches on its stomach. The luncheon afforded a break during an all-day seminar in which the diplomats were availed of the opportunity for a close-range acquaintance with the workings of the Knesset. Philippines Ambassador Rosalinda de Perio Santos, who has been here for four years and who spends time at the Knesset every week, said that she had learnt more in that one day than during her whole period of tenure. When heads of missions were summoned to another panel

secretaries around, but he said he would try to help. And he did. What is it they say about "the buck stopping here"?

ANYONE whose sole introduction to Thai food has been via the Thai fast-food restaurants which have sprung up all over the country was pleasantly surprised to find a tastier and more sophisticated form of Thai fare at the reception hosted by Thai ambassador Romarong Nopakum at the Thai Embassy last Friday. The occasion was to celebrate the birthday of King Bhumibol Adulyadej. Guests were also treated to Thai beer.

ISRAEL's fifth president, Yitzhak Navon, though long out of office, continues to travel the length and breadth of the country. Only a week after opening the Columbus exhibition at the National Maritime Museum in Haifa, he was in the Negev to attend the Ben-Gurion memorial service on the anniversary of the founding prime minister's death, and to receive an honorary doctorate at BGU.

SPEAKING of Columbus, anyone who has doubts that the man who discovered America was Jewish should consult with Jorge Alfonso Lockward, ambassador of the Dominican Republic, who has thoroughly researched the subject. He claims that not only was Columbus Jewish, but so were several members of his crew, who were among the first white men to land on the island which later became the Dominican Republic. They all met violent deaths, says Lockward, because



Emma Thompson, backed into a corner

the Indians were unhappy that they were courting their women.

ALTHOUGH Barbara Streisand is still taking her time about formally announcing that she is getting married, word is that she has asked her friend, New York-based fashion designer Donna Karan, to make her dress for the occasion. But marriage apparently agrees with Nick Nolte, who is trying that noble institution for the third time. The lucky lady is Vicki Lewis, who is apparently undeterred by complaints by her two predecessors that Nolte has a heavy hand.

INSIDE most of us is a secret actor or writer, including the chiropractor of Oscar-winning actress Emma Thompson. While working on her back, the doctor changed tactics and produced a script which he'd written and wanted her to read. Considering the possibility that she could sustain an instant spinal injury, Thompson didn't dare refuse.

Barbra Streisand: Here comes the bride? (UPPA)

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Dear Ruthie,

My best friend, who remained single well after I got married, finally met "Mr. Right." I was extremely happy for her. At first, when she and her new husband could never find time to get together with us, I attributed it to "newlywed bliss." I figured it was only natural for her to want to be alone with her husband, to get used to marriage, etc.

But, as time went on, it became clear that there was more to it than that. I am pretty sure that my friend's husband is not interested in being friends with us. He has a lot of money and what is considered an important job. I am not only hurt by the snub, I am also hurt by the fact that when my friend was single, my husband and I always invited her to our house for dinner, and often tried to fix her up with men. She was practically a member of our family. My children have always considered her their aunt.

I once tried to talk to her about this delicately. She got embarrassed, and hinted that her husband doesn't like to socialize much, since he is "too busy." This doesn't seem to interfere with the rest of their social life, however.

I am very upset with this man for coming between us. What can I do?

Snubbed by Buddy's Hubby Somewhere in Israel

Dear Hubby-Snubbed,

If your friend is allowing her husband to come between you, then it is with her that you have a bone to pick. As a "newcomer" to an existing social situation—of which you and your husband are an integral part—your friend's husband has two options: either to adapt or to keep his distance. The fact that he chose the latter may have to do with his personality or his personal taste in people. The fact that your friend has

gone along with this is a different matter, however.

Your assumption that her husband is "snubbing" you might be false, and based more on a case of low self-esteem than on this man's actual feelings towards you. The fact that he has time to socialize with other people could be a function of his difficulty in making new friends. Perhaps he is simply shy. If so, there is room to alter the situation gradually.

If not, and your assumption is correct, you may have no choice but to forfeit the friendship, unless you are willing to work out an arrangement which enables acquaintance with the workings of the Knesset. Philippines Ambassador Rosalinda de Perio Santos, who has been here for four years and who spends time at the Knesset every week, said that she had learnt more in that one day than during her whole period of tenure. When heads of missions were summoned to another panel

As painful as this predicament must be for you, try examining it from her point of view. Having remained single long after you were settled into family life, she probably envied you. She also may have felt patronized by your efforts to fix her up with men, even if she encouraged them.

Furthermore, she might have been so relieved to find "Mr. Right" that she was willing to pay the price in question.

Try, too, considering the likelihood that your friend misses you, yet fears causing marital disharmony by forcing the issue. And, as she is human, she probably cannot bear being caught in the middle of two different kinds of loyalty.

Whatever path you opt for, whether the "giving-it-time" approach, the "settling-for-stolen-moments" method, or the "who-needs-them-anyway" stance, keep all of the above in mind.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: ruthie@jpost.co.il

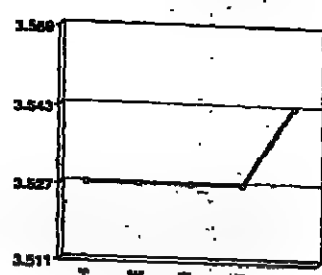
DRIVE CAREFULLY

שלח לי ליטות

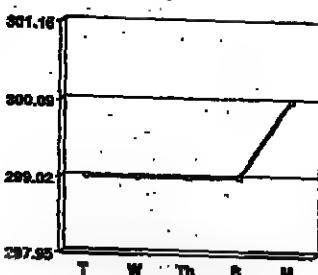
MARKETS

in brief

DOLLAR / SHEKEL



MAOF INDEX



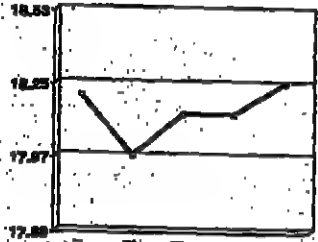
GOLD

\$ per ounce

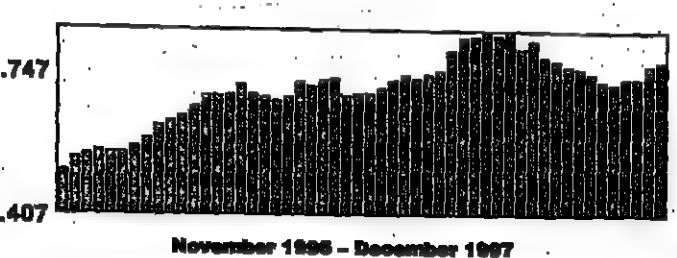


OIL

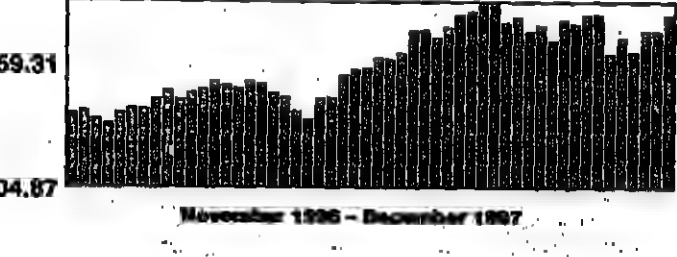
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



Hammer: Privatization receipts must fund budget

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer yesterday demanded that some of this year's receipts from privatization be used to prevent cuts to funding for health care, child allowances and the education budget. In the first 11 months of the year, the government received NIS 7.9 billion from asset sales.

"This sum is far higher than the early forecasts," the minister said in a statement. "This shows that the state does have money and should use at least some of it." The Treasury has made it clear that income from privatization will be used to reduce government debt.

David Harris

Bezeq Int'l to appeal Tadmor's findings

Bezeq International will, within 10 days, appeal against Antitrust Authority Director-General David Tadmor's finding that Bezeq misled the public regarding the prices it charged customers.

In the application filed yesterday with the Antitrust Court, Bezeq International said that it is preparing an appeal against the commissioner's finding, and had just received the investigation material from Tadmor.

Tadmor agreed to postpone the deadline for filing an appeal, and so the court followed suit.

Globes

Manufacturers, top PA civil servants to meet

The Manufacturers Association will host leading civil servants from the Palestinian Authority tomorrow to discuss investments and trade in the PA areas.

During the first half of this year, Israeli exports to the PA dropped 12 percent, to \$681 million, while imports remained stable at \$107m, according to Association data.

David Harris

IEC explains high wages

The Israel Electric Corporation yesterday issued a statement explaining its wages policy following publication of Central Bureau of Statistics data stating IEC wages averaged NIS 13,185 in September, 135% above the national average.

"The company's employees are systematically portrayed as earning way above the average. This is not a sin, but the reader does see the precise data in the various reports so that his judgement is liable to be impaired by the way the information is presented," the statement said.

The company maintains that the average number of hours worked by employees is among the highest in the economy - 47 hours per week - while the average among all employees is 40.8 hours.

David Harris and news agencies

EU: Israel is breaching cumulation laws

Agreement on jointly produced Palestinian-Israeli exports expected soon

By DAVID HARRIS

There is considerable evidence to show that Israel is breaching export laws by shipping to Europe goods jointly produced in Israel and the Palestinian areas, sources in Brussels said last night.

Despite efforts in Jerusalem to exempt such products from liability for customs duties to the European Union, Belgium says there must first be considerable progress in other economic areas before agreement can be reached.

Currently, the EU does not extend its separate free-trade agreements with the Palestinian Authority and Israel to products

manufactured in the two territories, a fact which is angering Israeli civil servants and industrialists.

The Industry and Trade Ministry's protest against the lack of facility for cumulation between Israel and the EU was added to on Sunday by the Manufacturers Association. The association's president, Dan Propper, accused the EU of paying lip service to the peace process and "scheming against the Palestinian economy."

The EU's failure to give free-trade status to jointly produced goods, particularly from the soon-to-be-completed Karni industrial park, flies in the face of the efforts

to aid the PA economy and the peace process in general, said Propper.

The EU applies regional cumulation to the Maghreb (Algeria, Morocco and Algeria), and the Industry and Trade Ministry is now pushing to achieve similar status for Israel and the PA.

Propper is recommending that the EU accept a similar set-up to that agreed last month between the US, Israel and Jordan. That agreement allows for goods produced at Irbid in Jordan with substantial input from Israel to be exported to the US under an extension of Israel's Free Trade Agreement with the US.

PA Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Maher Masri and EU diplomats said yesterday there are various examples of Israelis doing at least some manufacturing in the PA areas before exporting them to Israel, particularly in the clothing industry.

"We have seen 'Made in Israel' labels in factories in Gaza for example," said one Brussels source. "There's *de facto* cumulation. Everyone knows it's going on," said another.

"Israel has no right to enjoy these benefits," said Masri, alleging that Israel is exporting these goods under its Free Trade Agreement. "This must be

resolved before anyone can operate with the EU."

Among the EU's key demands is a comprehensive solution to existing customs problems, including allowing for Palestinian involvement at crossing points.

"I really hope the whole issue will be sorted out within two months," Customs and VAT Authority Director Moti Ayalon said yesterday.

Ayalon's confidence is shared by Brussels. With a trade agreement with Egypt imminent, that should give added impetus to an Israel-PA-Jordan-Egypt cumulation arrangement, said one EU official.



Treasury: Pension deal saves NIS 5-6b.

By DAN GERSTENFELD and DAVID HARRIS

The new pension arrangements agreed upon in principle between the Finance Ministry and Histadrut will save the country an actuarial deficit of NIS 5 - 6 billion, Treasury pensions head Tzipi Sammet said yesterday.

This is the likely outcome of a change in the so-called 'yellow agreement' between former Labor finance minister Avraham Shohat and Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz, signed two weeks before

That hand-written document, signed on a piece of yellow paper, aimed to base pensions on an entire working career, as opposed to the new system of using the most recent three years in a job as a basis. That agreement said those retiring on the old system would receive 60 percent of the difference between the new and old systems for five years, which could have amounted to as much as several thousand shekels per month for each worker, according to Sammet.

The tentative agreement between Finance Minister Yisrael Neeman and Peretz allows for payments of up to 60% as long as they are no greater than a monthly NIS 650 over an indefinite period.

While the five-year system and the indefinite period would result in the same financial outcome, Sammet and Neeman claim that the five-year rule would never prove watertight in court and the Shohat-Peretz proposal would also have to be applied indefinitely, which could cause some NIS 5 - 6b. of additional actuarial deficit.

CBS to change housing index calculation

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The Central Bureau of Statistics said yesterday that it will start publishing information about building statistics on a monthly basis.

Until now, the figures were published each quarter. The CBS also will change the way in which the indicators are calculated. From now on, the calculation will be based on building permits and approvals given by local authorities and by building and planning committees. The CBS said that these permits reflect the building potential and are therefore an

important indicator for changes in the housing industry.

In addition, in 1998 the CBS will conduct a new survey on the beginning and ending of housing projects and sales of apartments from private builders.

The survey will examine the situation in most of the towns. Until now, the surveys only covered the development in the 24 biggest cities.

A spokesman for the CBS said that it also is examining changing the way it calculates the housing index, which is the most important

factor in the consumer price index. In the past, there has been much criticism of the way in which housing prices are measured. One of the main arguments was that it does not reflect the real changes in housing prices, which in turn leads to higher CPI figures.

The spokesman said that a special committee, which was established seven months ago, has presented an interim report. He said that it appears the committee will recommend the measuring of the housing prices based on rent prices and not on sales of second-hand apartments as is done today.

UBS-SBC to be world's second-largest bank

By RETO GREGORI

ZURICH - Union Bank of Switzerland and Swiss Bank Corp. said yesterday that they will merge in a share swap, creating the world's second-largest bank.

UBS shareholders will get five shares in the new bank for each UBS bearer share, while holders of SBC registered shares will get one share for each. SBC holders will get 1 1/3 new share for each share. UBS investors thus get a 60 percent stake in the new banking giant, which will be led by current SBC Chief Executive Marcel Ospel.

The merger will lead to 13,000 job cuts over four years and will create the world's largest money manager with 1.32 trillion Swiss francs (\$910 billion) in assets under management. The company also will be Switzerland's biggest retail bank and, as an investment bank, will own SBC Warburg of the UK and US-based Dillon Read and have offices around the world.

"In the long term this is definitely positive, and the shares have potential because of the earnings increase that lies ahead," said Michael Krinner, a portfolio manager at Bank fuer Handel & Effekten. "It's also more evidence that the consolidation in the industry is continuing."

Last month, Travelers Group Inc. completed the \$9.3b. acquisition of Salomon Inc., while in June Morgan Stanley Group Inc. and Dean Witter, Discover & Co. completed their \$11b. merger. First Union Corp. of the US is offering \$16.1b. for CoreStates Financial Corp.

UBS shares jumped as much as 15%, while SBC shares gained as much as 8% amid expectations the United Bank of Switzerland, as the company will be called, will deliver on its promise to raise net income to 10-11b. francs by 2002, more than twice today's combined earnings. That brought the combined market value of the companies' shares to 91.7b. francs, from 84b. francs on Friday.

"This is extreme," said Joerg Lorenz, who manages more than 1b. francs at Swissca Portfolio Management, some of it in banking shares. "It's excellent news for shareholders, but whether it's good for Switzerland is another question."

About 7,000 jobs will be cut in Switzerland, more than in any previous program of Swiss corporate firings. When Ciba-Geigy AG and Sandoz AG united to form Novartis AG last year, the two companies shed 3,500 jobs at home amid 12,000 job cuts worldwide.

"We needed a partner to digest the huge infrastructure costs and remain in a top position in the accelerating consolidation," Ospel said.

The merger comes as Swiss banks cut costs at home and expand abroad in a bid to raise returns for shareholders. SBC and UBS had returns on equity of less than 7%, on average, over the past five years. The new bank aims for a return on equity of 15-20%, Ospel said, catching up with rivals such as

Citicorp., which averaged a 19% return on equity in the past five years, and Merrill Lynch & Co., which averaged 23% in the same period.

UBS said the merger will give the company a platform to do more business in retail banking abroad and to continue to expand in investment banking. The private banking division, the companies' main earnings pillar, will continue to grow in Asia and the US, UBS said.

UBS Chief Executive Mathis Caballavetta will become United Bank of Switzerland's chairman. Georges Blum, SBC chairman, and Robert Studer, UBS chairman, both will retire. The companies expect to save 3-4b. francs per year within four years as they cut their combined work force of 56,000 by almost a quarter.

UBS and SBC will ask shareholders to approve the merger at meetings on February 3 and 4 respectively. The merger will be tax-free for shareholders. BZ Group, a bank and investment company chaired by Martin Ebner, which owns 10% of UBS as well as shares in SBC, said the merger plan is "positive."

The banks expect the merger to be completed by May, once they have antitrust approval. Ospel said. The merger needs Swiss, European and US antitrust approval, the banks said at a press conference in Zurich. The banks said a total of 6,000 jobs worldwide will be lost in investment banking, with 5,000 jobs going in retail banking, 1,000 in private banking and 1,000 elsewhere.

In 1997, the companies will take charges totaling 7b. francs to reorganize, which will probably lead to a net loss, UBS and SBC said. Last year, the banks posted their first ever losses after taking multi-billion franc charges for bad domestic loans.

(Bloomberg)

Merger to change global finance

ZURICH - Top Swiss banks decided yesterday to merge to create a banking giant worth \$60 billion which will be the world's largest fund manager, controlling almost one trillion dollars of funds.

The creation of the United Bank of Switzerland, the product of the merger in May next year of Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) and Swiss Bank Corp (SBC), will bring with it the certainty of job cuts, intensified competition and restructuring in an industry whose landscape will never look quite the same again, analysts said.

It will have total combined assets of \$637.8b., coming second only to Japan's Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi. With a current market valuation of \$60b., it will be the world's fifth-largest financial group, after HSBC and Lloyds TSB Group, both based in London. Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi and the US-based Citicorp.

Operating in investment banking under the name of Warburg Dillon Read, it also will prove a catalyst for a massive shake-out, cornering strong positions in bonds, equities and corporate finance.

Analysts forecast the new group could become the world's largest player in the international debt markets, assuming it can rid itself of the two banks' overlapping business in Europe and expand into the US.

Foreign exchange liquidity could suffer as the number of market players quoting prices falls, exacerbating a trend started by the merger in recent years of major players such as Chase and Chemical in the US and of the Bank of Tokyo and Mitsubishi.

The marriage of UBS and SBC, tailored to create the critical mass required for a player on the world banking stage, will force the arm

of smaller groups struggling to compete.

The once-dominant globally Swiss banks have ceded their place at the top of the world financial rankings to a succession of Asian and North American groups, themselves formed through mergers and alliances.

Yesterday's announcement was born of a desire to defend Swiss interests, SBC chairman Georges Blum told a news conference.

"It is in the general [Swiss] interest that two strong and solid Swiss banks should join forces. Individually, they might otherwise find themselves in partnerships where the Swiss interests could no longer be safeguarded to the same extent," he said.

This will provide a crumb of comfort to the 13,000 bank employees worldwide who the banks said will lose their jobs as a result of the merger.

"My feeling is it [the merger] is good. They will get a bonus and find another job easily. There is always a shortage of good people," an industry head-hunter said.

One employee set to gain from the fusion is UBS chief executive Mathis Caballavetta, who will be chairman of the new group. Both Georges Blum and UBS chairman Robert Studer are to step down.

Shares in both bank groups jumped on the announcement after rising strongly last week amid feverish speculation that a marriage was in the works.

But the small matter of antitrust approval could yet rule out a merger. The deal is still subject to scrutiny under EU rules which prevent the creation of strengthening or dominant positions by companies which have substantial business in the EU. It also must meet Swiss and US antitrust requirements (Reuters)

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STOCKS

NEW YORK (AP) — Technology stocks rose yesterday, record high for the first time since early October, fell 1.42 to 982.37.

That means cut-throat competition for Japan's steelmakers as

•

CURRENCIES

Four major Japanese financial institutions went under in recent weeks, suffering under bad loans

COMMODITIES

inflation optimism

BONDS

ERUSALEM
Conducted Tours
HEBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun-Thur., 11 a.m. from the main Reception Center, Sheinkin

HAIFA
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Precious metals

Spot gold was little changed. The price of gold, which reached a

Oil

Brent crude oil futures rose following their New York equivalents after a New York Mercantile Exchange report showed the number of contracts sold and as yet unmatched rose 5.3 percent. That prompted bets that demand to reverse these so-called short positions, particularly from institutional investors outside the oil industry.

Others

Cocoa production in the Brazilian state of Bahia is expected to fall to 2.19 million tons in

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rate (9.12.87)**Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (8.12.97)**

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates ¹
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	5.7672	5.8280	—	—	3.7946
U.S. dollar	3.5171	3.5739	3.45	3.63	3.5490
German mark	1.9892	1.9990	1.93	2.05	1.9803
Pound sterling	5.6145	5.9083	5.71	6.00	5.6555
French franc	0.5877	0.5972	0.57	0.61	0.5917
Japanese yen (100)	2.6692	2.7226	2.64	2.78	2.7102
Dutch florin	1.7453	1.7735	1.71	1.80	1.7570
Swiss franc	2.4268	2.4660	2.38	2.51	2.4412
Swedish krona	0.4503	0.4576	0.44	0.47	0.4532
Norwegian krona	0.4670	0.4947	0.47	0.51	0.4904
Danish krone	0.5164	0.5248	0.50	0.54	0.5200
Finnish mark	0.6506	0.6611	0.63	0.68	0.6556
Canadian dollar	2.4741	2.5113	2.43	2.55	2.4820
Australian dollar	2.3556	2.3968	2.31	2.43	2.3712
S. African rand	0.7219	0.7336	0.65	0.74	0.7274
Belgian franc (10)	0.9531	0.9685	0.93	0.98	0.9598
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8904	2.9456	2.75	2.89	2.8210
Italian lire (1000)	2.0098	2.0410	1.97	2.07	2.0021
Jordanian dinar	4.9572	5.0372	4.86	5.23	4.9802
Egyptian pound	1.0000	1.0000	1.00	1.09	1.0452
ECU	3.8965	3.9624	—	—	3.9288
Irish punt	5.1178	5.2004	5.03	5.28	5.1518
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3277	2.3693	2.28	2.40	2.3450

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

WHERE TO GO

**EMERGENCY
PHARMACIES**

Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clalit, Strous A,
3 Avidor, 670-6660; Batseim,
Salah 90, 627-2318; Shalom,
Shafar Road, 581-0108; Dr. Alkawa,
Herod's Gate, 628-2058.

Tel Aviv: Superpharm Dizengoff
Center, 90 Dizengoff, 628-0975;
Superpharm, Gimel, 1 Ahniet, Ramat
Aviv Gimel, 641-7171. Tel A. 1
Winesap, Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn
Givoli, 546-4444.

Haifa: Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einstei-
n, 541-3730; London Mitrsters
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UEFA Cup preview Strasbourg holds 2-0 advantage vs. Inter

LONDON (AP) — It's hard to fathom how Strasbourg, a modest club languishing near the bottom of the French League standings, could be on the verge of eliminating Italian powerhouse Inter Milan from the UEFA Cup.

Yet, it's the French club which holds a 2-0 advantage going into today's third round, second leg game at Milan's San Siro stadium.

But don't count out the Italians, who won the UEFA Cup in 1991 and 1994 and were runners-up last season.

Strasbourg, which hasn't reached the quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup since 1965, hardly looks like the giant-killer which shocked Inter two weeks ago.

The Strasbourg players were cheered off the field by their fans after Saturday's 1-0 league defeat to Guingamp. That result left Strasbourg in 14th place in the 18-team French league, just one point off the relegation zone.

Inter, meanwhile, sits atop Italy's Serie A and has Brazilian star Ronaldo determined to restore the balance of power.

Ronaldo, who guided FC Barcelona to the Cup Winners' Cup title last season, has scored nine goals in 11 league games for Inter this season.

"I want to score many goals against Strasbourg, enough goals to reach the next round," he said. "I hope we have a full stadium. I hope the fans realize how much will to win we have inside." Team owner Massimo Moratti offered a simple formula for Inter to reach the quarter-finals.

"We need to score three goals in the first 10 minutes," he said. "That way we won't have to worry any more."

With a lineup like Inter's, that's certainly possible.

Besides Ronaldo, Inter has striker Maurizio Gans, French midfielder Yuri Djortseff and

Argentine midfielder Diego Simeone.

Brazilian midfielder Ze Elias is suspended and defender Salvatore Presti is out injured, though captain Giuseppe Bergomi is back at the helm.

If Strasbourg gets past Inter, it would be the club's biggest achievement since winning the French championship in 1979.

It would certainly make up for what has been a disastrous domestic campaign.

"It's hard to be ridiculed by your own fans," coach Jacky Duguerepoux said. "But the players have their pride. They will prove to the world that they are capable of qualifying in Milan. That will be their best response."

In other games today, defending champion Schalke 04 is in good position to advance against Portuguese side Braga. Schalke has home advantage after the scoreless draw in the first leg.

Schalke defender Thomas Linke could be out after getting elbowed in the jaw by Leverkusen forward Ulf Kirsten in Saturday's 0-0 draw in the Bundesliga.

Belgian forward Michael Goossens is ruled out, while Czech midfielders Jiri Nemec and Radoslav Latal and Dutch striker Rene Eijkelkamp are questionable.

French team Auxerre has home advantage and a 1-0 lead going into the second leg against FC Twente.

The Dutch club has a long injury list headed by Finnish striker Antti Santala, who broke a bone in his foot Saturday in a league game against Fortuna Sittard. Former Dutch international midfielder John Bosman is also doubtful after aggravating a heel injury.

Athletic Madrid and Croatia Zagreb are 1-1 after the first leg in Croatia. Atletico is coming off

last-placed Sporting de Gijon.

"This is the most important match of the year," Atletico coach Radomir Antic said. "We are playing for our prestige." Atletico is expected to be without Italian forward Christian Vieri, Serb forward Radek Bogdanovic and defender Juan Manuel Lopez, all injured.

Lazio of Rome defends a 2-0 lead against Rapid Vienna for the home leg at the Olympic Stadium.

But Lazio has lost two straight league games and dropped to ninth place, prompting calls for the firing of Swedish coach Sven Goran Eriksson.

"It counts little that we've (almost) qualified," Eriksson said. "We need some goals and entertaining soccer to rediscover our confidence and morale."

Roberto Mancini is disqualified. So Pierluigi Casiraghi will be paired with Croat Alen Boksic for first time this season.

In Birmingham, English club Aston Villa seeks to overturn a 2-1 deficit against Steau Bucharest. Dwight Yorke, whose late goal in the first leg gave Villa a lifeline, was substituted with a calf strain in Saturday's win over Coventry and is questionable.

A 1-0 victory would be enough for Villa to advance on the away-goals rule.

Spartak Moscow is home to Karlsruhe after a scoreless first leg in Germany.

On Thursday, runaway Dutch league leaders Ajax Amsterdam are at home against German side Bochum. Ajax won the first leg 4-2.

The Dutch club will be without Danish right back Ole Tobiasen, who tore a ligament in his left knee November 29 and will be sidelined for at least six months.

Injured Finnish international Jari Limanen is also doubtful.

Leeds plans permanent memorial for Bremner

LEEDS (AP) — As tributes continued to pour in for Billy Bremner, Leeds officials said Monday they plan a "permanent, lasting memorial for the former Leeds and Scotland soccer great."

Bremner, who captained both club and country during the 1960s and 1970s, died of a suspected heart attack Sunday at the age of 54.

Bremner was a legend at Elland Road, making 585 league appearances for Leeds between 1959 and 1976. He won two league championships, the FA Cup, the League Cup and two European Fairs Cups. He also was voted Footballer of the Year in 1970.

The former Scotland midfielder was capped 54 times by his country. He was a member of the Scotland team which beat World Cup champions England at Wembley in 1967.

Bremner also managed Leeds between 1985 and 1988, as well as two spells in charge of Doncaster.

"Anyone who ever talks about the history of Leeds United,

automatically talk about Billy Bremner and the great side he led during the 1960s and 1970s — the most successful period in the club's history," Leeds chairman Peter Risdale said yesterday.

"Billy Bremner led by example. He was the most inspirational and talented player of his generation and there are no words that never do credit to his contribution to this club both on and off the field," Risdale said the club was consulting with Bremner's family on establishing a "permanent, lasting tribute to his memory."

"We have had a series of suggestions which I shall be consulting with my colleagues on at a later date," Risdale said. "It's a question of working out what would be the most right, fitting and appropriate memorial to Billy."

Manchester United, Liverpool and Newcastle have statues of Sir Matt Busby, Bill Shankly and Jackie Milburn outside their grounds. Many stadiums also have stands named after famous figures from the past.

FA Cup third-round draw

Portsmouth v Aston Villa, Arsenal v Port Vale, Leicester City v Northampton Town or Basingstoke Town, Rotherham United v Sunderland, Leeds United v Oxford United, Sheffield United v Bury, Exeter v Newcastle, United Crewe, Alexander v Birmingham City, Liverpool v Coventry City, Grimsby Town or Chesterfield v Norwich City, Queens Park Rangers v Middlesbrough, West Bromwich Albion v Stoke City, Bristol Rovers v Ipswich Town, Colchester United or Hereford United v Tranmere Rovers, West Ham United v Lincoln City or Emley, Manchester City v Bradford City, Swindon Town v Cambridge United or Stevenage Borough Derby, County v Southampton, Tottenham Hotspur v Fulham, Crystal Palace v Scunthorpe United or Histon Town, Cardiff City v Oldham Athletic, Torquay United or Watford v Sheffield Wednesday, Chelsea v Manchester United, Wimbledon v Wrexham, Cheltenham Town or Boreham Wood v Reading, Bournemouth v Huddersfield Town, Preston North End or Notts County v Stockport County, Blackburn Rovers v Wigan Athletic, Charlton Athletic v Nottingham Forest, Darlington v Wolverhampton, Wanderers Peterborough United v Walsall, Barnsley v Bolton Wanderers. Matches to be played on weekend of January 3.

SPORTS

in brief

Dura new coach of Hapoel Ashkelon

Ronni Dura was officially named the new coach of Hapoel Ashkelon yesterday evening in place of Menashe Nuriel who resigned on Sunday.

Nuriel the man who coached Ashkelon to promotion at the end of last season from the Second Division became the fourth managerial casualty of the season, following in the footsteps of the three coaches who have parted ways with Hapoel Beersheba since the National League campaign began.

Ironically Dura was to have been drafted in as coach at Beersheba last month but the appointment fell through at the last moment. Now Hapoel Ashkelon — languishing just one place above the relegation zone — have turned to Dura, a man who has won a reputation for rescuing clubs in trouble.

Derek Faint

Club Hotel tennis tourney begins today

The Club Hotel Eilat Tennis Challenger, delayed two days by the general strike, gets under way today in Eilat.

Tournament officials were forced to re-arrange the schedule as players, both foreign and Israeli, scrambled for seats on flights. Top seed is Dominik Hrbaty, who missed the rush by arriving in Eilat to train a week ago.

Among the other prominent visitors are Andrei Cherkasov from Russia, Italy's Gianluca Pozzi and Oleg Ogorodov from Uzbekistan.

Israeli Eyal Erlich, Raviv Weidenfeld and Eyal Ran gained automatic entry to the main draw.

The final of the tournament, Israel's most prestigious following the demise of the Eisenberg Open, will be held on Sunday at 4 pm.

Heather Chair

ICC debates mini world cup

The International Cricket Council began a two-day meeting yesterday to discuss issues such as a mini world series to raise money for promoting the game.

The ICC hopes to raise more than \$3 million to popularize cricket and hold a "cricket week" every year, said ICC chief Jagmohan Dalmiya.

No date or venue has been decided for the series. Among the contenders for the mini world cup are Bangladesh, which has just emerged on to the international field and Disneyland.

Reuters

Finalists named for FIFA Player of the Year

Dennis Bergkamp, Roberto Carlos, Ronaldo and Zinedine Zidane are the four finalists for FIFA's 1997 Player of the Year award.

FIFA said yesterday that the field had been narrowed to those four players after voting by 128 national team coaches. Two of the players got the same number of votes.

The winner will be announced on January 12 at the FIFA gala at Disneyland Paris.

Reuters

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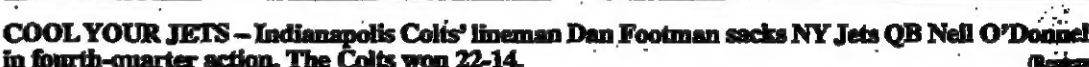
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Patriots keep share of AFC East



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Bledsoe leads Pats to victory
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Bremner memorial planned
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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Venables to coach Nigeria?

LONDON (AP) - The Australian soccer federation is willing to let coach Terry Venables take over Nigeria's team for next year's World Cup.

Venables, the former England manager who guided Australia's unsuccessful World Cup qualifying campaign, has reportedly been offered the job as Nigeria's coach for the finals in France.

Soccer Australia chief David Hill said yesterday that he could allow Venables time off to take up the post.

"I would want to discuss this first with Terry, but of course we're not in the World Cup and Nigeria is," Hill told BBC's Radio Five Live. "It costs us a lot of money to have Terry as coach, by our standards a lot of money, when we're not in the World Cup. So, frankly, it may be possible for us to release him from his contractual obligations for a period if he wants to." Australia failed to qualify for France 98 after losing in a playoff to Iran.

"Our bottom line is that we want (Venables) to play an ongoing role for Australia," Hill said.

Despite the speculation linking Venables to Nigeria, Wimbledon's Nigerian international, Efan Ekoku, remained skeptical.

"I would be very surprised if it was Terry Venables," he said. "I wouldn't put any money on him becoming the coach. I am sure we would benefit from having Terry Venables in charge. But I think, with just six or seven months to the World Cup, we are more likely to get a coach who is familiar with the players and knows African football."

Cavs, Pacers maintain win streaks

Knicks lose fourth straight road game against Philly

INGLEWOOD, California (AP) - The Cleveland Cavaliers and Indiana Pacers kept their winning streaks alive in different ways.

The Cavs won their eighth straight game Sunday night, beating the Los Angeles Lakers 94-84.

Wesley Person scored 22 points for Cleveland, which withstood a furious fourth-quarter rally to hand the Lakers their first home loss of the season after eight victories.

"This is a pretty good win for us," Person said. "Our defense is coming together."

The Pacers extended their winning streak to six when Reggie Miller hit a baseline jumper at the overtime buzzer for a 99-97 victory over the Phoenix Suns.

"I always like to silence the crowd on the road," Miller said. "That's what separates the good players from the great players. It was me against 19,000 people screaming and clapping. When I hit the shot, it was so quiet."

Pacers 99
Suns 97 (OT)

Miller took a midcourt inbound pass from Mark Pope, drove to the baseline and fired an arching shot over Jason Kidd that swished through as the horn sounded at Phoenix.

Miller, who didn't score in the first half, finished with 19 points as Indiana won its fifth straight on the road on coach Larry Bird's 41st birthday.

Danny Manning scored 25 points for the Suns, who rallied from a 10-point deficit in the final minutes to force overtime.

Cavaliers 84
Lakers 84

Kobe Bryant almost single-handedly brought the host Lakers back, scoring 14 of his 21 points in the first six minutes of the fourth quarter as Los Angeles cut a 19-point deficit to eight.

The Lakers got even closer when Elden Campbell hit a jumper and Eddie Jones made two free throws to cut Cleveland's lead to 83-79 with 2:18 remaining. But Person hit a clutch 3-pointer and the Cavs went on to win their sixth straight on the road.

Cleveland outrebounded the Lakers 49-37.

76ers 93
Knicks 78

Allen Iverson scored 27 points and Jerry Stackhouse had 20 as the host 76ers ended a three-game losing streak.

Allan Houston had 27 points for the Knicks, who have lost three of their last four and four straight road games.

Patrick Ewing scored New York's first six points but was held to four the rest of the way and sat out the entire fourth quarter.

Pistons 93
Raptors 83

Reserve Jerome Williams had 20 points and 11 rebounds as the Detroit Pistons snapped a four-game road losing streak.

John Wallace scored 23 points for the Raptors, who extended their franchise-record losing streak to 16 games.

Grant Hill had 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Pistons, while Damon Stoudamire had 21 points and nine assists for Toronto.

Bucks 97
SuperSonics 91

Terrell Brandon, who came to Milwaukee in a three-way trade that sent Vin Baker to Seattle, scored 20 points and the Bucks overcame Baker's 29 points to beat the SuperSonics.

Ray Allen also scored 20 for Milwaukee, while Armon Gilliam added 19 and Glenn Robinson 18.

Baker, traded to Seattle on September 25 in a deal that brought Brandon and Tyrone Hill to the Bucks from Cleveland, hit a baseline shot that pulled Seattle to 91-89 with 52 seconds left.

But Allen countered with a basket and Baker picked up his fifth and six fouls over the next 30 seconds.

Nuggets 100
Clippers 92

LaPhonso Ellis scored a season-high 21 points and the Nuggets overcame a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter.

Ellis sparked the rally with nine fourth-quarter points as the Nuggets outscored Los Angeles 30-14 in the final period and won for only the second time in 17 games.

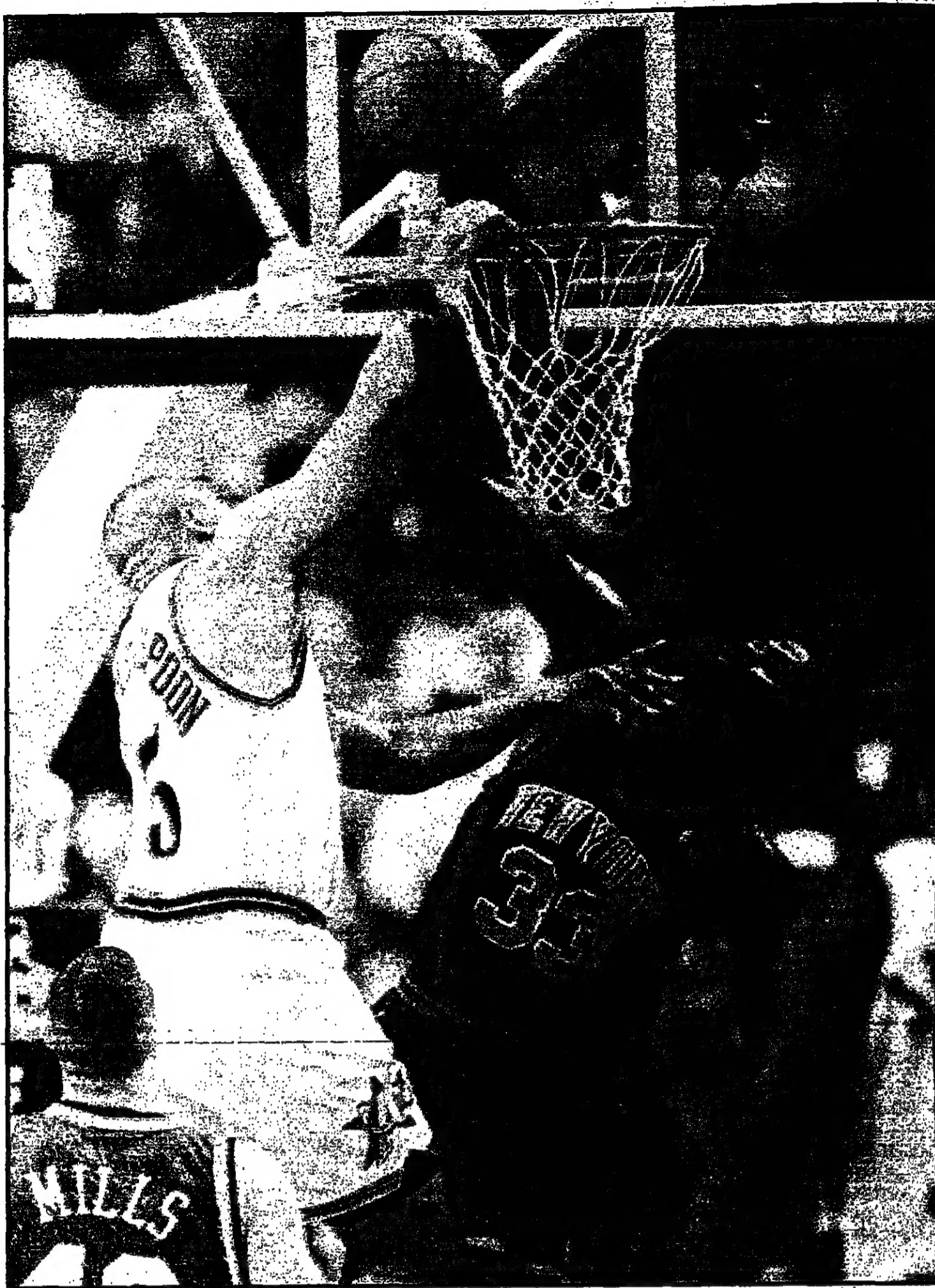
Bobby Jackson added 17 points and Danny Fortson 15 for the Nuggets. Eric Piatkowski and Rodney Rogers each scored 18 for the Clippers, who lost their seventh straight on the road.

Kings 99
Warriors 84

Mitch Richmond and Cortis Williamson each scored 24 points as the host Kings snapped a six-game losing streak.

Williamson, held without a field goal in the first half, scored 10 points in a 1:57 span of the third quarter as the Kings broke a 45-45 tie and went ahead to stay.

Joe Smith scored 24 points for Golden State, which played its third game since star Latrell Sprewell was suspended for attacking coach P.J. Carlesimo.



THE DUNK STOPS HERE - The Knicks' Patrick Ewing blocks a dunk attempt by the 76ers' Clarence Weatherspoon. (AP)

Anderson, Molitor, Gaetti re-sign before arbitration deadline

NEW YORK (AP) - Brady Anderson, Paul Molitor and Gary Gaetti were among 10 free agents who returned to their former baseball teams Sunday, agreeing to new contracts before the mid-night deadline to offer players salary arbitration.

Anderson and the Baltimore Orioles agreed to a \$31-million, five-year contract, ending weeks of negotiations between the outfielder and owner Peter Angelos.

Molitor, who had been negotiating with Baltimore and Toronto, changed his mind and agreed just before the deadline to a \$4.15 million one-year contract with the Minnesota Twins, a raise of \$650,000. The 41-year-old designated hitter, who had considered retirement, is 12th on the career hits list at 3,178 and could move up to eighth next year.

Gaetti, a 39-year-old third baseman, agreed to a \$1 million, one-year contract with the St. Louis Cardinals. He can earn \$1.1 million more in performance bonuses, which would bring him up to \$2.1 million - matching his 1997 salary.

Seven other players also agreed to contracts before the deadline:

• San Francisco brought back a pair of pitchers, agreeing to a \$1.42 million, two-year contract with left-hander Rich Rodriguez and a \$550,000, one-year contract with right-hander Danny Darwin.

• Texas and left-hander Scott Bailes agreed to a \$200,000, one-year deal.

• Anaheim and right-hander Rich DeLucia agreed to a \$400,000, one-year contract with a \$700,000 team option in 1999, and the Angels agreed to a minor-league contract with right-hander Mark Gubicza.

• Toronto gave infielder-outfielder Juan Samuel a minor-league contract that would earn him a \$420,000 salary if he makes the team.

• Milwaukee agreed to a minor-league contract with outfielder Darrin Jackson that calls for a \$550,000 salary if he's in the majors, plus the chance to make \$450,000 in performance bonuses.

Officials from the union and management agreed to stop the clock for an hour to give St. Louis and Andy Benes time to work out a new contract, but the team and the pitcher couldn't get it done in the additional time.

Benes and other free agents not offered salary arbitration cannot re-sign with their former teams until May 1. Those who were offered arbitration have until December 19 to accept or reject the offers and may negotiate with their former clubs through January 8.

Of the players offered arbitration, four already have agreed to deals. But Baltimore offered it to Willie Blair, Texas offered it to Willie Blair, Texas offered it to Roberto Hernandez because their new contracts have not been finalized.

Others offered arbitration were outfielder Harold Baines by Baltimore; catcher Pat Borders by Cleveland; third baseman Dean Palmer by Kansas City; outfielders Tim Lincecum and Darryl Strawberry by the New York Yankees; catcher Rick Wilkins by Seattle; infielder Bill Ripken and pitcher Bobby Witt by Texas; outfielder Deion Sanders and pitchers Kent Mercker, Mike Morgan and Jose Rijo by Cincinnati; pitchers Mike Manos and Bruce Ruffalo by Colorado; pitcher Pete Smith by San Diego and reliever Dennis Eckersley by St. Louis.

The deadline also was significant for another reason: Draft pick compensation disappeared at midnight for those free agents not offered arbitration. Some teams didn't want to lose draft picks and are waiting until this week to sign players they've talked to.

The passing of the deadline is expected to clear the way for the New York Yankees to sign designated hitter Chili Davis, for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays to sign DH Paul Sorrento and third baseman Wade Boggs, and for the Cleveland Indians to sign right-hander Dwight Gooden.

Also, the San Diego Padres were said to be close to completing a trade with Florida to acquire Marlins ace Kevin Brown.



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